

WEDDING



VACATIONS

REAL WEDDINGS

6 couples share their stories and pics

REAL PROPOSALS

Love at 30,000 feet

INSPIRATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Wow-worthy
wedding traditions &
ceremonial customs

IRRESISTIBLE
SPA RITUALS

Foodie
destinations



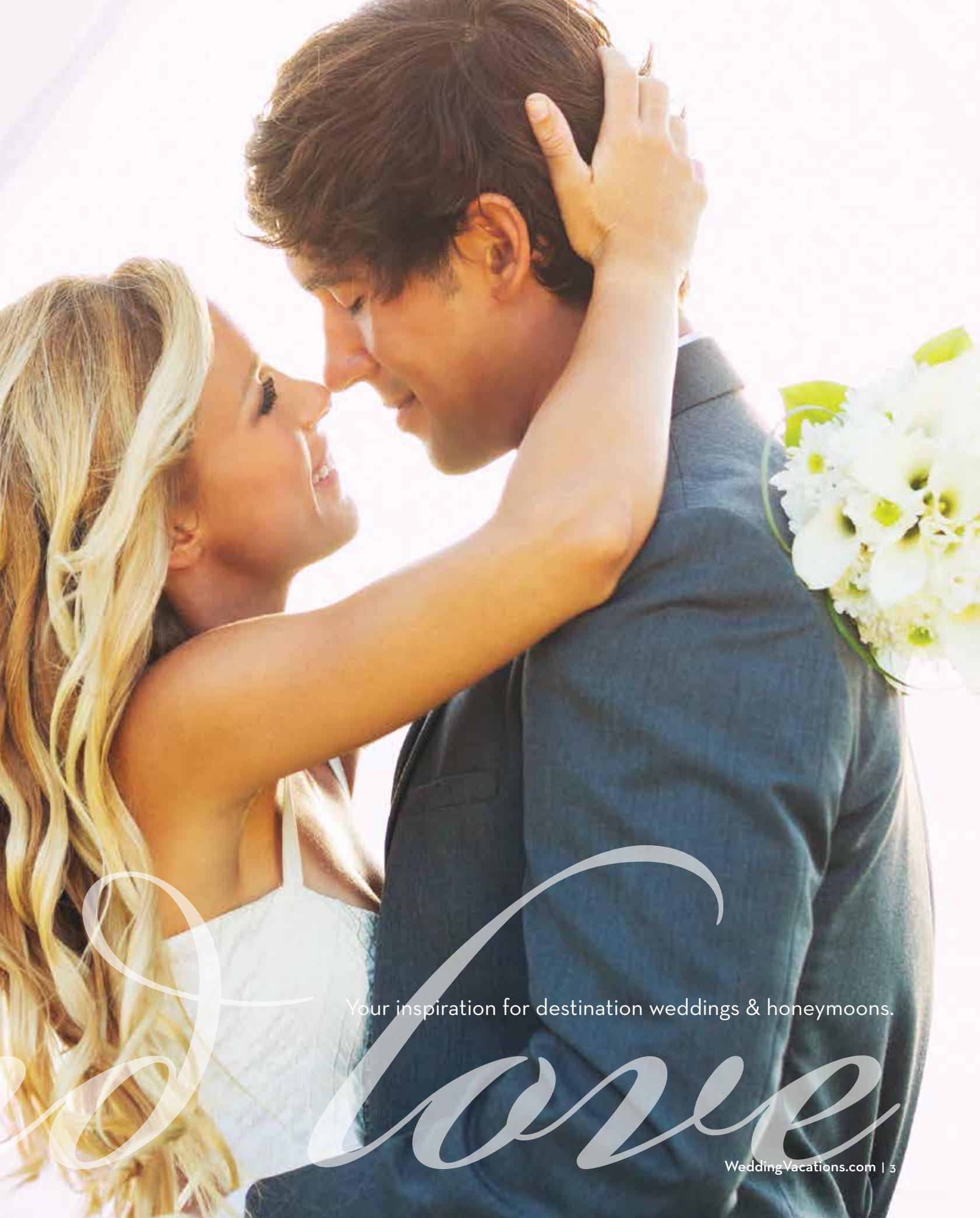
Your inspiration for destination
weddings, honeymoons and
special occasions in paradise



“Take me into your loving arms.
Kiss me under the light of a thousand stars
Place your head on my beating heart.
I’m thinking out loud,
That maybe we found love right where we are...”

Ed Sheeran





adore

Your inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

WeddingVacations.com | 3



WEDDING VACATIONS

SAYS “**YES**” TO THE DRESS



WeddingVacations.com is a sponsor of *Say Yes to the Dress Canada* airing on W Network Wednesdays at 10 p.m. EST. In each episode, in addition to searching for the perfect gown for their big day, brides-to-be will also get to catch up with Meghan, Wedding Consultant at WeddingVacations.com, who will offer advice tailored to destination wedding planning: From what type of gown works best in a tropical setting to the best resorts for the occasion.

Tune in on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. EST on W Network

(or catch the segments online at wnetwork.com) to get inspiration for destination weddings and honeymoons.





Royalton
Luxury Resorts

Experience All-In Luxury™



Exclusive designer DreamBed™



All-In Connectivity™



Unlimited reservation-free dining

We will ensure your weddings are as unique and unforgettable as our resorts. Set on the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches, Royalton Luxury Resorts offers 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.

Avail yourself of a wealth of inclusions at the following resorts tailored to accommodate your unique wedding vision:

- Royalton White Sands Montego Bay, Jamaica
- Royalton Punta Cana Beach and Casino Resort, Dominican Republic
- Royalton Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa, Mexico

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 complement your wedding vision) • Boutonniere • 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 details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

*Free wedding packages are based on five rooms (to guests), staying for a minimum of seven nights.



Experience

All-In Luxury™



Luxury Dining



Adults Only Resort

International Drinks

A PICTURE-PERFECT WEDDING

Plan the wedding you've been dreaming of with the help of our expert destination wedding 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 your vows with the backdrop of a stunning tropical paradise that everyone will remember forevermore.

Royalton Hicacos in Varadero, Cuba, offers an exceptional team, unparalleled service, and an impressive free wedding package that includes the services of a personal wedding coordinator, invitations, wedding decor, a bouquet, a boutonniere, a wedding cake, chambermaid service, makeup service, a surprise serenade and much more!

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

Royalton
Hicacos
Resort & Spa

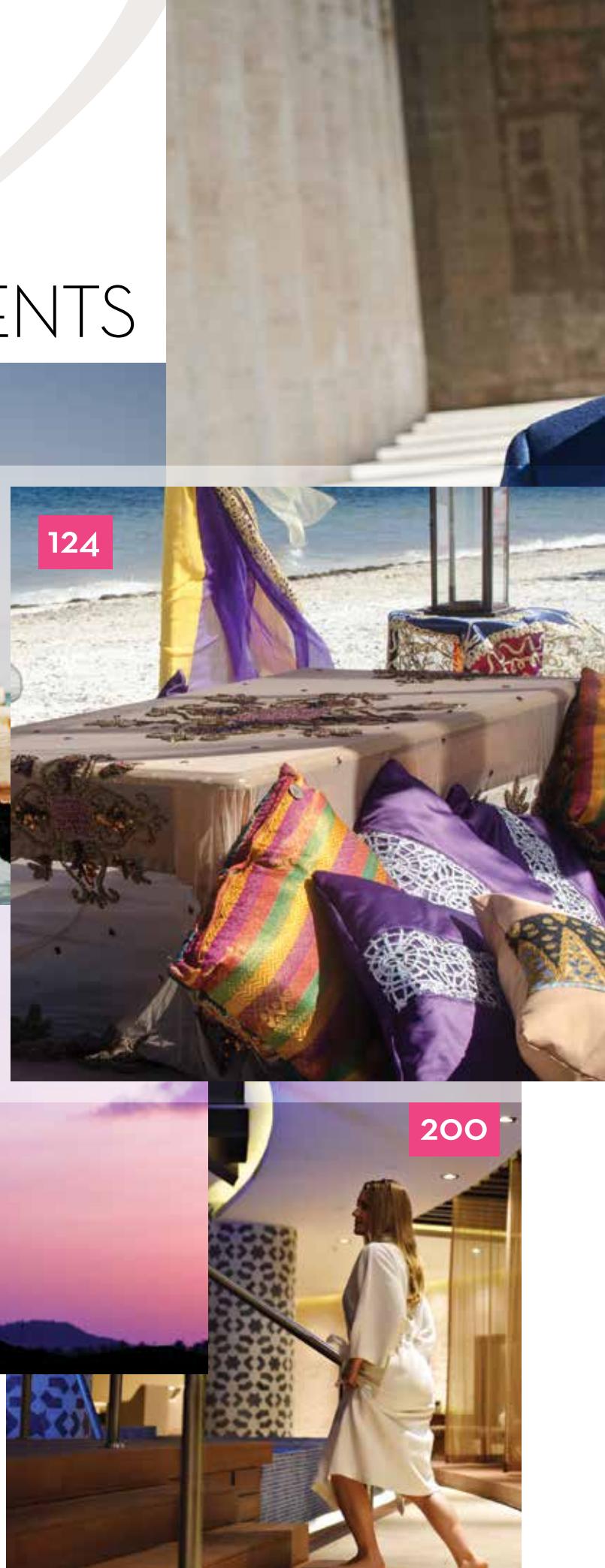


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Sascha Gluck, Cancun Photos.



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Bugatti

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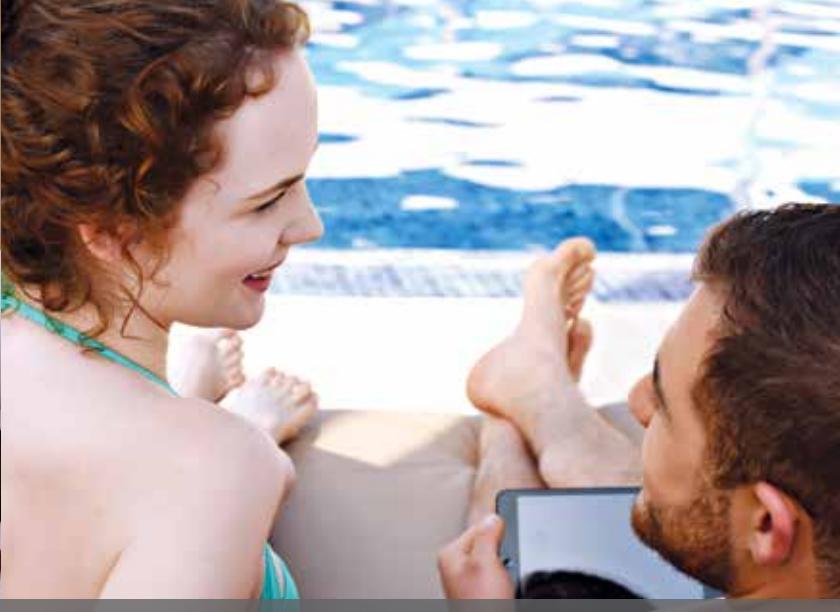
Hideaway
at
Royalton



Experience All-In Luxury™



Exclusive designer DreamBed™



All-In Connectivity™



Unlimited reservation-free dining

Enjoy the best of both worlds at the Adults-Only Hideaway at Royalton

The Hideaway at Royalton Luxury Resorts offers a tranquil adults-only oasis with full use of the adjacent Royalton Resort facilities. Guests can enjoy all of the services they've come to expect from the award winning Royalton Resorts brand, while basking in a small boutique style resort with personalized service and special amenities.

Hideaway at Royalton Luxury Resorts offers 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.

Avail yourself of a wealth of inclusions at the following resorts tailored to accommodate your unique wedding vision:

- Hideaway at Royalton Riviera Cancun
- Hideaway at Royalton White Sands, Jamaica

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)

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For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

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Experience

All-In Luxury™



Luxury Dining



Adults Only Resort

International Drinks

Royalton

Cayo Santa Maria
Resort & Spa



WEDDING PACKAGES WITH YOU IN MIND

Designed to ensure you and your guests enjoy a magical day at Cuba's top-rated resort.

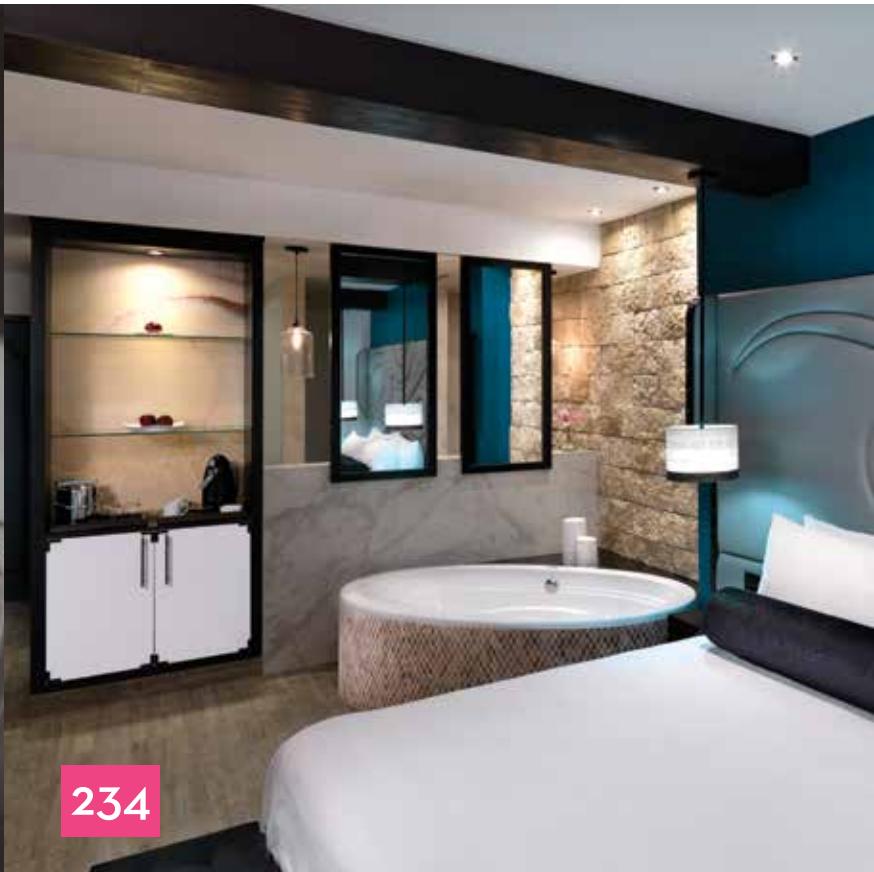
At Royalton Cayo Santa Maria your destination wedding will be a delightful blend of two dreams beautifully made into one reality. Fairytale nuptials and the perfect holiday await you. We have a devoted team of wedding specialists who have designed wedding packages with you in mind. Royalton Weddings 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 special day.

The Royalton Weddings packages 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 through Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



SCRIBBLES FROM THE EDITOR



The spring issue of our destination weddings magazine features deeply-rooted ceremonies that fuse modern traditions with cultural customs in some of the most popular wedding destinations in the world. En vogue grooms take to the beach wearing trendy blues and light hues, while the Real Weddings features, along with photos and stories from our Facebook photo contest winners, have filled our pages with tangible tips and trends for brides and grooms-to-be. With a new season, our budding magazine saw a blushing re-brand, with a new name and new website to match.

And here it is! This spring, couples looking for answers, inspiration and some guidance on where to start with their destination wedding and honeymoon planning will flock to WeddingVacations.com, our newly-launched website, which has now been accompanied by our revamped wedding magazine.

The launch saw a promising new partnership with W Network's new series, *Say Yes to the Dress*, which began airing in May. With advice from Meghan, a wedding consultant that works with WeddingVacations.com, bride-to-be, Ava, gets the scoop on everything for her big day; from what type of gown works best in a tropical setting, to the best resorts for her destination wedding.

Whether you're looking to host a destination wedding along the shores of the Caribbean, a honeymoon in a Mexican hot spot, or a romantic getaway in the heart of Central America and beyond, WeddingVacations.com is your ultimate source of inspiration for "happily ever after."



Zeynep Tuck
Editor-in-Chief



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REFRESHED AND REVAMPED

As more and more couples jet-set to sought-after destinations across the world to tie the knot, it's become evident that traditional wedding planning services don't go far enough to cover their needs. That's where our new website comes in. [WeddingVacations.com](#) is the ultimate source of inspiration for destination brides and grooms, newlyweds seeking the perfect honeymoon spot, and happy couples looking to celebrate their special occasion in paradise. Rather than sift through a slew of wedding packages or honeymoon offers, we kick off the planning process by connecting readers with savvy wedding consultants from some of the leading names in travel. Consultants from these preferred partners, namely Sunwing Vacations, Signature Vacations, [SellOffVacations.com](#) and LUXE Destination Weddings, provide access to the most exclusive resorts, featuring great perks in popular tropical destinations that suit a range of tastes, budgets and needs.

In addition to providing practical support and advice to ensure each couple's big day is a success, [WeddingVacations.com](#) also has a social community with useful forums that provides couples with a "venue" to engage in conversations about destination weddings, ask other newlyweds about their honeymoons, and stock up on tips and ideas for their next milestone celebration.




Memories
Resorts & Spa





MOMENTS THAT WILL LAST FOREVER

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 is now fulfilled.

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 almost a kilometre 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 nearby golf course 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 perks like access to the largest water park in the Caribbean right on site.

Memories resorts is available exclusively from Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



 **Memories**
Resorts & Spa





SAY “I DO” IN CUBA’S 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 are 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.

Once you’ve tied the knot escape to captivating Cuba for an unrivalled honeymoon. Surrounded by beautiful beaches, pristine turquoise waters and lush surroundings, Cuba sets the stages for romance.

Memories Resorts offers destination wedding packages, vow renewals, and honeymoon packages at the following resorts:

Memories Paraíso Azul Beach Resort, Cayo Santa María, Cuba

Memories Caribe Beach Resort, Cayo Santa María, Cuba

Memories Flamenco Beach Resort, Cayo Coco, Cuba

Memories Varadero Beach Resort, Varadero, Cuba

Grand Memories Varadero, Varadero, Cuba

Memories Holguín Beach Resort, Holguín, Cuba

Memories Jibacoa Resort, Jibacoa, Cuba

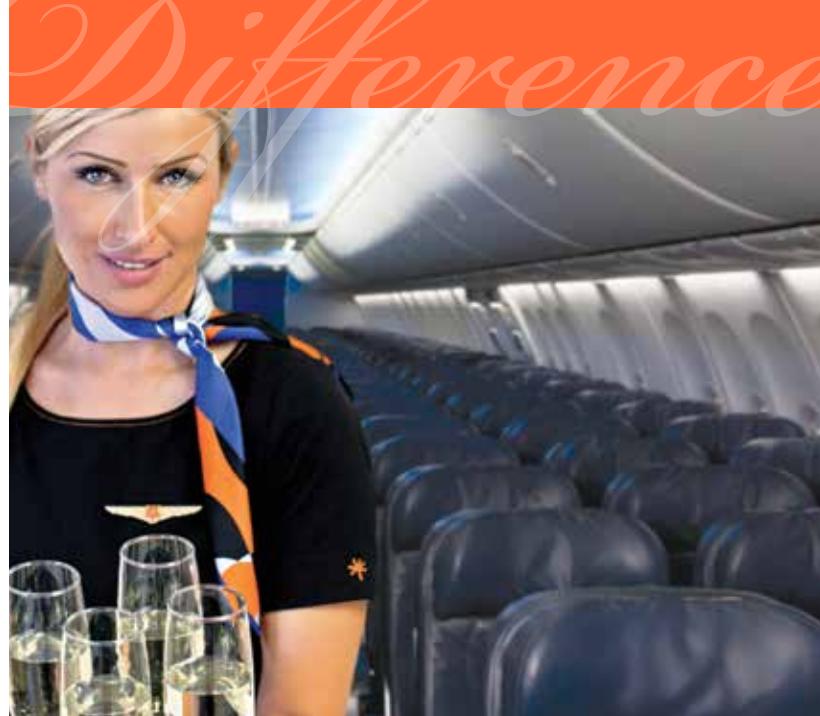
Memories Resorts in Cuba are available exclusively through Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE™ WITH SUNWING WEDDINGS

Sunwing Weddings is your premiere destination wedding planning partner specializing in stress-free celebrations in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. Book your wedding group with Sunwing, and enhance your experience with the services of a professional wedding planner. Complementary to your hotel's on-site wedding planner, this personalized wedding consultant is your point of contact in Canada, who will help you plan and coordinate all the details of your wedding before you arrive in your destination.

Organized with prowess, bursting with value, and richly unique, tropical ceremonies allow you to focus on each other rather than all the tedious arrangements. When you have the help of a trusted wedding consultant, they will help incorporate all the tiny details that make this celebration as unique as your love story. Handpicked resorts and special collections, exclusive to Sunwing, feature convenient amenities, well-appointed accommodations, and romantic settings that will make your wedding an incredibly memorable experience. Find out all the ways in which you can make your destination wedding truly your own with Sunwing Weddings' exclusive Diamond and Platinum, wedding planning service packages (see page 106 for more details).

Book your wedding group with
Sunwing Vacations and save with
GroupsPlus Weddings*



WEDDING DRESS CARE PROGRAM

Dedicated overhead compartment for the bride's gown.



 **sunwing.ca**





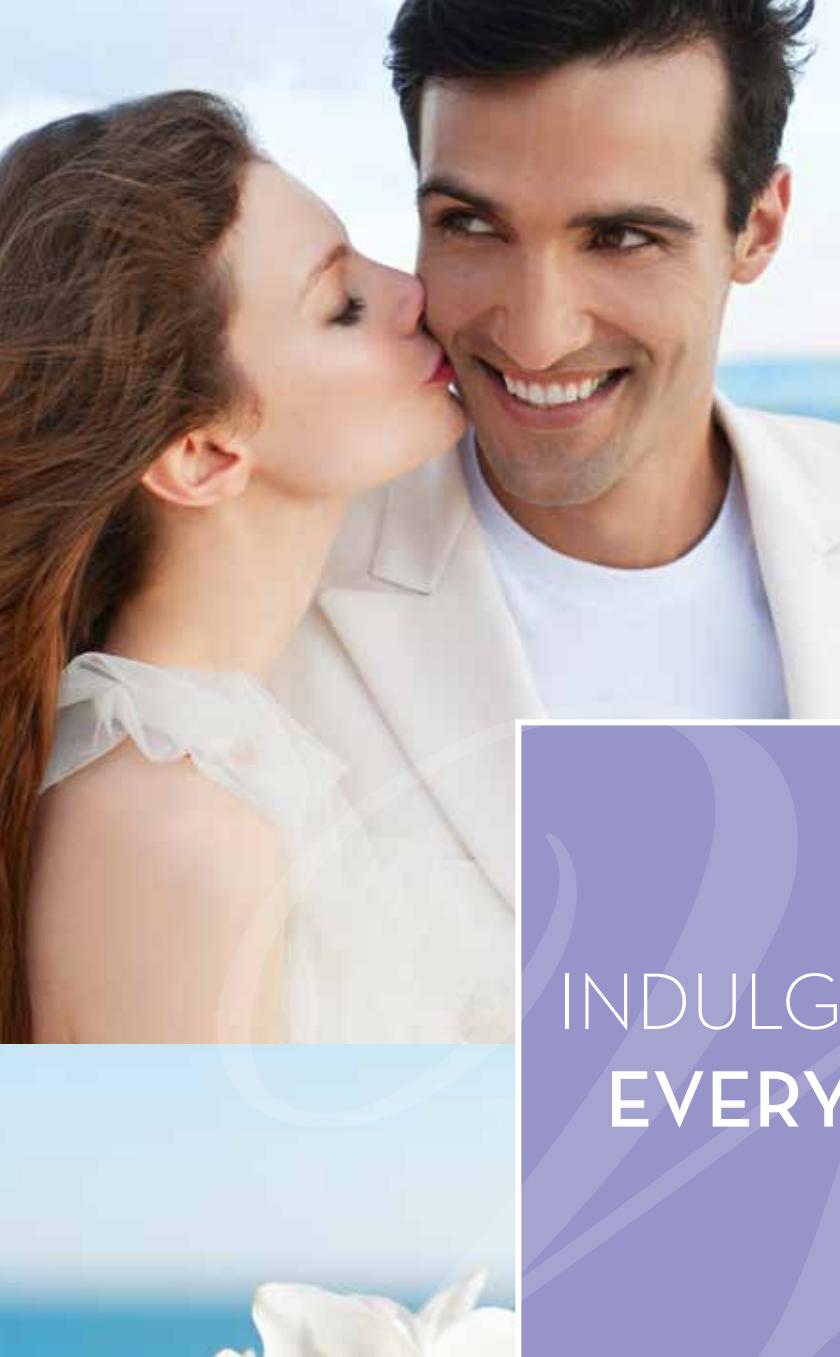


IDEAL FOR ROMANCE

The adults only 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 CHIC Mansion, we can accommodate a small intimate gathering or a lavish gala event.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.





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

The most important day of your life calls for a picture-perfect setting - and immaculate 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, sparing no effort to ensure that every detail is attended to, giving you the opportunity to enjoy the company of your 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, the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotels in Mexico and the Dominican Republic can help make your dream a reality. Here are a few examples of the many available wedding 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 guest seating in white, a natural sand aisle, and a tasteful gazebo and altar, also in white. A floral arrangement on the altar provides a colourful accent.

Other collections available include White Rosette, Insignia, Metallic Dunes, Seaglass, Elegant Ivory, Purple Shimmer and El Sol.

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

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

SPOTLIGHT:
HARD ROCK HOTELS



INDULGENT & DECADENT I DO'S

Fusing the ultimate rock n' roll vibe with top-quality accommodations and amenities, the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotel chain has made its mark in Mexico and the Caribbean. Couples getting married at one of the tropical resorts will enjoy quality service set amid tranquil surroundings both inside and out. Featuring the intimate details that make a wedding or honeymoon anything but average; luxurious accommodations boasting unmatched amenities like in-room hydro spa tubs and 24-hour room service, as well as impressive delectable cuisine and top-shelf beverage options, swim-up bars, engaging entertainment, an impressive event space and much more.

DAPPER IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana is situated on pristine sugar-white sands stretching 121 acres along Macao Beach in the Dominican Republic. With 1,775 rooms, this location is Hard Rock's first all-inclusive hotel and casino. The lavish resort features deluxe accommodations, including the Hard Rock's branded "Rock Star Suite" - an over-the-top room that boasts three bedrooms with king-size beds, a dining room, living room, full kitchen, pantry, in-room bar, on-call concierge, private beach and pool areas, late check-out - giving couples the opportunity to start their new lives together like, well, rock stars.

Newlyweds and their guests can while away the hours at the signature Rock Spa for some star-studded pampering, or enjoy a few rounds on the 18-hole, Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. By night, the resort comes alive with a Vegas-style casino - the largest in the Dominican Republic. Dance into the wee hours of the night at the on-site ORO Nightclub, and indulge in a host of gourmet options at one of 10 on-site restaurants, including Simon Mansion run by celebrity chef and restaurateur, Kerry Simon.



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

ROCK-STAR EXPERIENCE



MAGICAL MEXICO

Exclusively designed by the Gettys Group, an award-winning, creative and innovative team of hospitality experts, **Hard Rock Hotel Cancun** immediately delivers the rock-star experience, with spine-tingling surroundings and crowd-pleasing amenities studded with stylish touches. Custom rock-star memorabilia line the walls, showcasing signature pieces from the likes of Paul McCartney, Melissa Etheridge and Shakira.

The 12-storey beachfront hotel boasts 601 guestrooms, featuring ocean or lagoon views, and balconies on which to enjoy the cool tropical breeze. During their stay, couples can expect access to unforgettable, all-inclusive amenities like experiential dining at nine world-class restaurants, never-ending cocktails and in-room beverages, legendary entertainment - and top-shelf everything across the board.

Located just off the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea, **Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya** offers an unforgettable all inclusive experience. Ultra-posh and lavishly appointed, the resort's guestrooms include balconies or expansive sky terrace options with picturesque views, and luxuries like hydro spa tubs in each room.

In addition to its proximity to world-class shopping and cultural appeal, Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya is the ultimate crowd-pleaser, offering five world-class restaurants, three bars and lounges and a state-of-the-art event space - ideal for elegant weddings or extravagant affairs. For some real post-wedding fun, 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.

SPOTLIGHT:
HARD ROCK HOTELS



Rockin'



VIBRANT VALLARTA

Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta occupies a beautiful beachfront where tradition and modern design come together with incredible views. The family friendly resort offers the perfect mix of adventure, relaxation and rejuvenation for guests of all ages. Its seemingly endless amenities include four restaurants, offering a range of fresh cuisines, four bars serving top-rail beverages, two large outdoor swimming pools, two outdoor hydro spa tubs, multi-purpose courts and facilities, a sauna and steam bath, beauty salon, as well as services and activities for kids.



THE COLIN COWIE WEDDING EXPERIENCE

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. Known for his lavish style and innovation, 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.

Cowie has created nine unparalleled destination wedding collections, which provide couples with everything they need to enter newlywed bliss with style and peace of mind. On-site



SPOTLIGHT: HARD ROCK HOTELS



wedding specialists oversee details such as ceremony location and structure, set-up details like chairs and chair covers, along with floral decorations, an aisle runner, bridal bouquet and groom's boutonniere. In addition, the wedding cake, sparkling wine, dinner reservations for up to 30 guests, and honeymoon options are also looked after. For an additional cost, couples can also add reception tables to their package, which can accommodate up to eight guests each, and include centrepieces, plates, runners, silverware, tumblers and wine glasses.

Couples who choose the all-inclusive option can also select from exclusive honeymoon package collections inspired by Colin Cowie. These packages bring unmatched relaxation and sexy amenities to newlyweds looking for the ultimate, all-inclusive, post-wedding getaway.



Lovebirds seeking the rock-star experience can indulge in the Showstopper Honeymoon Package, which provides dinner for two, a 50-minute couples massage at the renowned Rock Spa®, an excursion for two*, and VIP concierge service. They will also receive in-room indulgences, like 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, mini-cake, two honeymoon shirts, and a special letter from Colin Cowie himself.



For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 



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



Destination weddings in paradise?

Absolutely!



Destination weddings are magical and intimate, allowing you to spend quality time with your loved ones and wedding party. Don't stress about planning your own destination wedding when you can trust the professional wedding consultants at Signature Vacations to help you fulfill your vision. Signature Vacations has over 40 years of experience planning destination weddings in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. We will do everything possible 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 professional wedding consultants will answer all your questions, take care of your specific needs, and design your wedding to be as unique as your personality.

When you plan your wedding with Signature Vacations, you'll have access to a world of added-value perks and inclusive features available at some of the top-tier, brand-name resorts that specialize in all inclusive stays in tropical destinations. We also offer special collections featuring exclusive inclusions at the RIU Hotels & Resorts, Hard Rock Hotels, Palace Resorts, Velas Resorts and Karisma Hotels & Resorts. By choosing a hotel with exclusive value-added perks, you can make unforgettable wedding memories with your nearest and dearest all week-long.

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

**Book your wedding group with Signature Vacations
and save with GroupsPlus Weddings***



Looking to tie the knot in paradise? Signature Vacations provides you with the opportunity to host a picture-perfect destination wedding in the presence of your dearest family and friends. Book your group travel with Signature Vacations, and receive exclusive Groups Plus inclusions, plus the following Groups Plus Weddings perks:

- Complimentary upgrade to Elite Plus in Sunwing Airlines for the bride and groom
- Complimentary access to the Plaza Premium Lounge (at select airports) for the bride and groom
- \$100 per couple excursion credit for the bride and groom
- \$500 anniversary travel credit for the bride and groom (with a minimum of 10 rooms booked)

*Booking conditions apply. For more details on our vacation and wedding packages, as well as group travel offers, contact your travel agent or visit signaturevacations.com.

absolutely all inclusive

Signature
vacations

JEWEL RESORTS

Dream



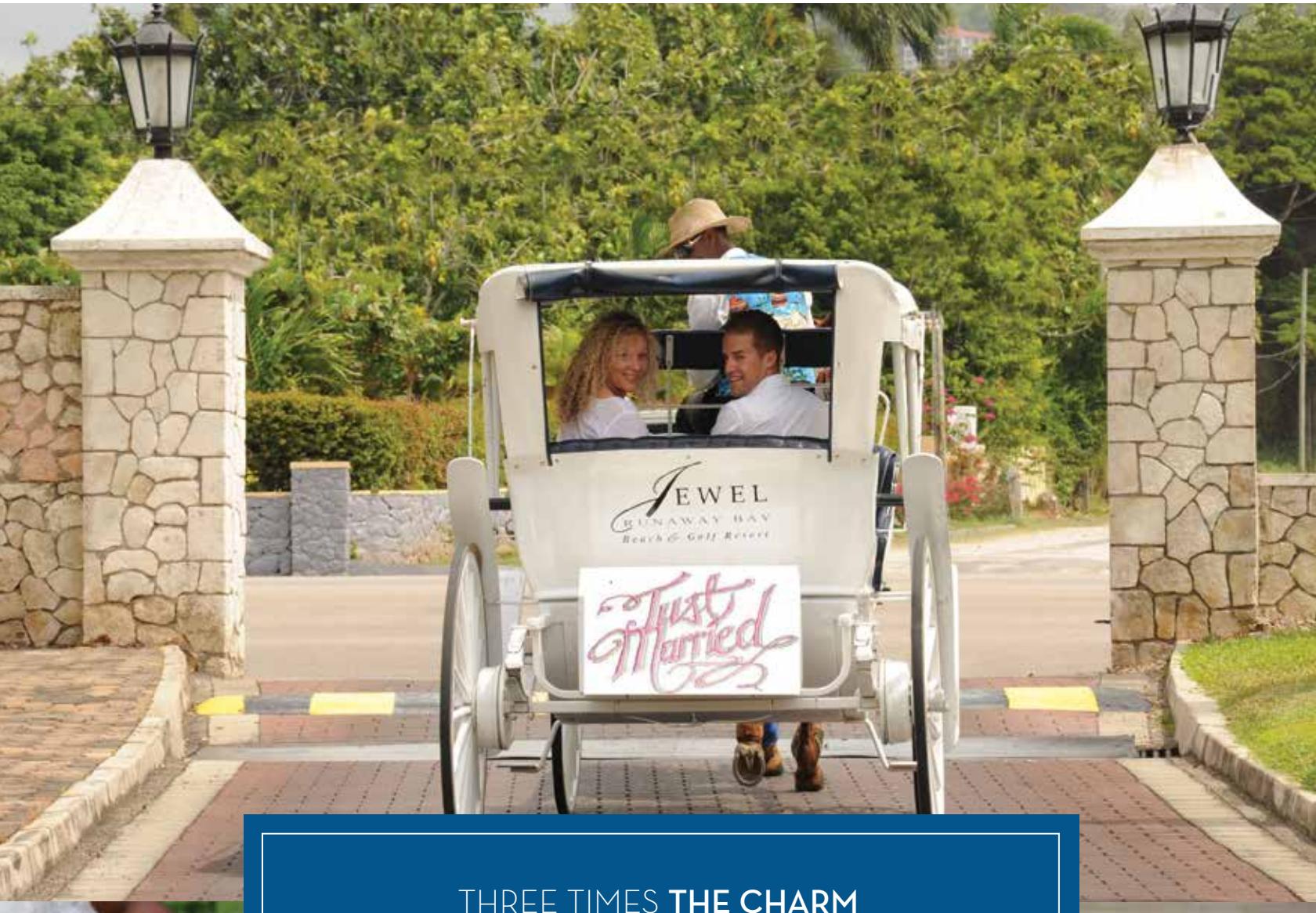
Weddings or honeymoons make up some of the most memorable moments in your life. For those couples looking to tie the knot in the Caribbean, Jewel Resorts in Jamaica can help make memories that will last. With three locations to choose from, each unique locale offers the finest accommodations, amenities and scenery for the all inclusive wedding experience of a lifetime.

Located in Ocho Rios, **Jewel Dunn's River Beach Resort & Spa** is a premium, all inclusive resort for adults only set upon acres of verdant landscapes and just a few minutes away from its namesake, and one of Jamaica's coveted attractions, Dunn's River Falls. Here, newlyweds can enjoy the start of their new lives together in posh surroundings.

Jewel Runaway Bay Resort is situated just minutes from the Green Grotto Caves, surrounded by the most beautiful flora, and featuring upscale accommodations that are just as breathtaking as the scenic views. Couples can swap vows on the private, white-sand beach, and then let loose on their honeymoon, lounging in a hammock underneath gently swaying palm trees.

Jewel Paradise Cove Beach Resort & Spa is for the couple seeking a little R&R after exchanging their vows. Have an intimate ceremony on the beach or a large-scale grand affair at this idyllic oceanfront retreat, and then hide out with each other as you enjoy some well-deserved pampering at the on-site spa.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



THREE TIMES **THE CHARM**





REAL WEDDINGS CHANTAL & LAREN

"Laren and I met through friends in 2008 when I moved to British Columbia. We had gone to a few mutual events, and ended up really hitting it off during a night at the Armstrong Fair. We were inseparable not long after that." The rest, as they say, is history!

Chantal was first attracted to Laren by his appearance, "[But] then I got to know him, he was always making me laugh, we had so much fun together," she reminisces. "Even when we were apart, he was all I could think about. He was like no one I had ever met." For Laren, Chantal was simply a breath of fresh air, "She was very down to earth, very real. What you see is what you get with her, and I love that about her the most."

Chantal and Laren talked about getting engaged, but a move to a new city and the hustle and bustle of getting settled kept them from finding the "right moment." One Thanksgiving weekend while Chantal's sister was visiting, the threesome were about to set out to walk the dog. Claiming that he had forgotten the doggy bags, Laren went back into the house.

"After five minutes I was getting restless and impatient so I walked back [inside]... and there I found Laren bent down on his knee," Chantal recounts. She was confused, extremely surprised, and speechless, to say the least. Laren proceeded to stutter through so many heartfelt words, and all she heard was, "will you marry me?" Chantal's sister was in the corner the entire time (crying so much so that she wasn't able to take any photos).

"She was beyond grateful to be able to witness her big sis get engaged."

REAL WEDDINGS
CHANTAL & LAREN





Riu Santa Fe photographer.



Seaside celebrations

In November 2014, Chantal, Laren and 33 of their closest friends and family came together for a tropical union at the Riu Santa Fe in Los Cabos, Mexico. Donning a cotton-candy coloured pink gown, the bride walked down the aisle to her beau to the tune of Sam Smith's *Stay With Me*.

"My most memorable moment was walking down the aisle towards Laren...I was on the verge of an ugly cry; the amount of emotion that came over me was inexplicable," Chantal remembers. Likewise, Laren piped in agreeing in that seeing Chantal walking towards him was a moment he'll never forget, "Seeing how beautiful she looked - it finally hit me that she was going to be my wife."

Post-nuptial celebrations took the group to the resort's steakhouse overlooking the beach, where the bubbly flowed and Chantal and Laren took to the dance floor to John Legend's *All of Me*. While the two shared a playful and fun kiss after cutting the cake, the night also had some funny and unexpected moments. Chantal laughs, "It took my two best friends and two women that I had never met to help [me go to the washroom] without having to take the dress off!" Other than the brief dress debacle, the party continued late into the night at the Riu's on-site disco.

For their honeymoon, Chantal and Laren snuck off to Secrets Pueblo Los Cabos Golf and Beach Resort for some post-wedding R&R.

REAL WEDDINGS
CHANTAL & LAREN



Riu Santa Fe photographer.

**CHANTAL & LAREN'S
TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS**

- Take the time to enjoy the day. You work so hard for what seems like something that takes forever to plan, this perfect day. Honestly, it just FLIES by!
- Make sure to allow yourself to enjoy the small things, and remember to smile, no matter what, all eyes will be on you.
- Take the moments with your new spouse and make them last, this is about the two of you and the next chapter of your lives.





OLD | NEW | BORROWED | BLUE

What was old? Oops! The bride didn't have anything old.

What was new? My tennis bracelet.

What was borrowed? My sister-in-law's promise ring.

What was blue? Laren's mom passed away unexpectedly a few months before the wedding. We used her favourite blue scarf and pinned a piece of it to the inside of the crinoline in my dress.



GET THEIR LOOK

Chantal's gown: Marianne gown by Maggie Sottero.

Chantal's shoes: Glitter ankle strap dress sandal by Caparros.

Laren's outfit: A linen vested light coloured suit from Le Château.

Bridesmaids dresses: Light Tiffany-blue dresses from Guess.

Groomsmens attire: Khaki pants from Banana Republic and their choice of white shirts.

Photographer: Riu Santa Fe photographer.

REAL WEDDINGS
CHANTAL & LAREN



To start planning a picture-perfect celebration like this, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com – your inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 





Riu Santa Fe photographer.

memories





THE amRESORTS® COLLECTION



AMResorts offers six sensational brands for you to choose from for your wedding and honeymoon, where everything is included: Enjoy Endless Privileges® at Zoëtry Wellness & Spa Resorts, Unlimited-Luxury® at Secrets Resorts & Spas, beautiful settings at Breathless Resorts & Spas, deluxe accommodations at Dreams Resorts & Spas, great features at Now Resorts & Spas, as well as Unlimited-Fun® at Sunscape Resorts & Spas. Indulge in limitless meals, snacks and top-shelf spirits, daily and nightly entertainment, and so much more – all without wristbands. Each resort offers a bouquet of wedding and honeymoon packages, including a South Asian wedding package, and some packages are even free! Additional special touches, such as a complimentary on-site wedding coordinator, are available to ensure no hair – or petal – will be out of place. On your special day, AMResorts vows to wow!

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com – your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



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 or city hall, 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 and relatives.
- 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 dreamed 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 will 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.



If you answered:

Mostly As: Destination No Way: Although a 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. Get started by contacting a wedding consultant from some of the leading names in travel today at weddingvacations.com.

Mostly Cs: Destination Possibility: You're not 100% sure if this is your wedding style but you are definitely curious to explore the options. You love the concept but perhaps you need to speak to a wedding consultant. 



LOVE UNDER THE MOONLIGHT

MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

You have decided to set out on a never-ending journey along the road to eternal love. Sit back and enjoy the ride with Meliá Hotels International at our all inclusive resorts, where you will discover love as you have never experienced it before.

Fill your days with peace, and your nights with romance, joy and warmth and let your personality shine through an array of venues for your special day. Imagine a destination wedding by jewel-toned waters stretching beyond the horizon; elegant banquets in spectacularly lush gardens; a barefoot celebration on the silky-soft beach; and deliciously, intimate moonlit dinners.

In addition to hosting the wedding of your dreams, Meliá Hotels International offers world-class amenities and accommodations for an unforgettable honeymoon. Wile away the hours under the tropical sun or retreat to luxurious rooms with romantic ambiance.

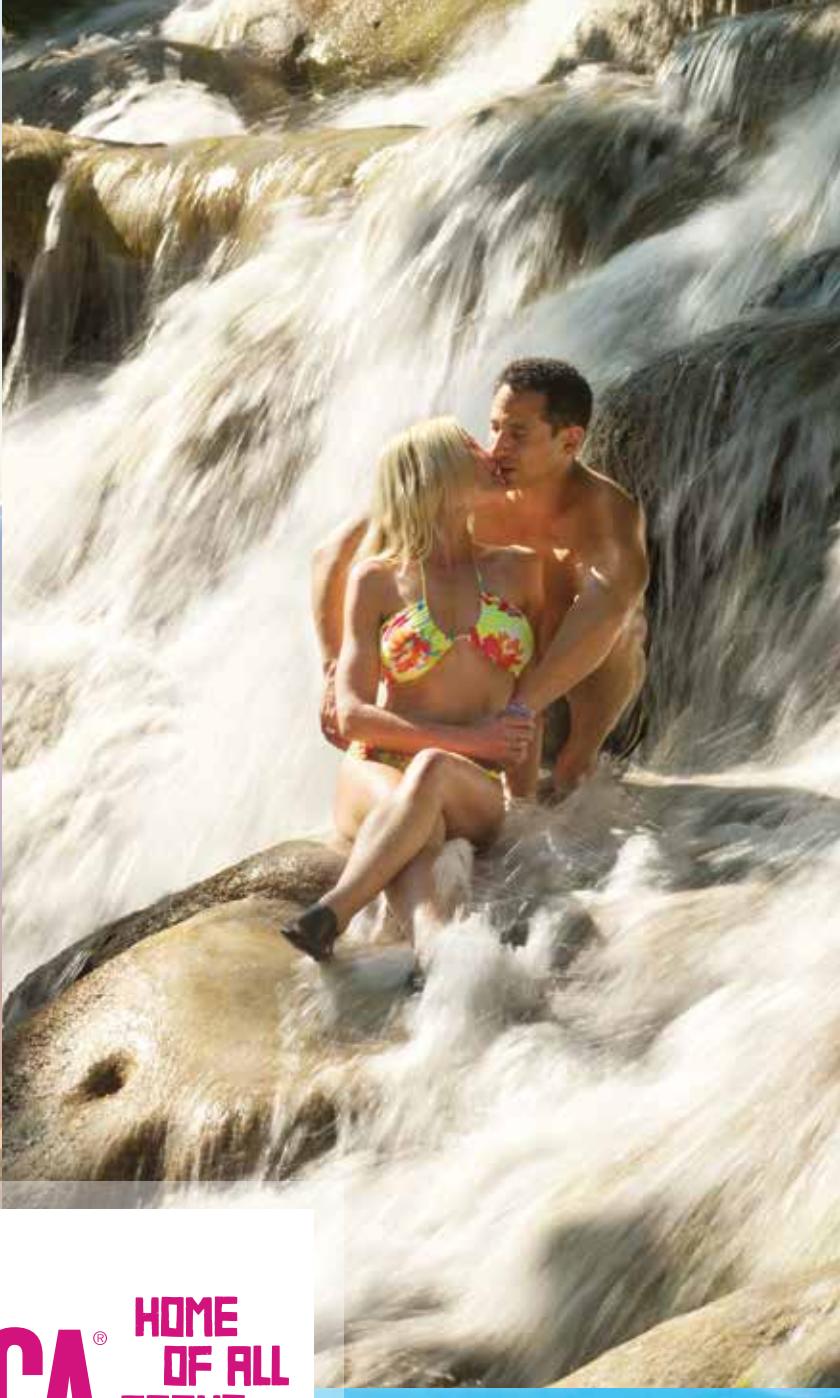
Choose from a selection of attractive and unique inclusions, with a variety of wedding packages from complimentary to custom-made affairs that will fulfill your every wish.

Inquire about our weddings and honeymoons, and allow us to add the special touches for your momentous occasion. For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



ROMANCE
by *Paradisus*
RESORTS

ROMANCE
BY MELIÁ



JAMAICA® HOME
OF ALL
RIGHT





SAY “YES” TO THIS LOVERS’ PARADISE

Jamaica is one of the most romantic and vibrant islands in the Caribbean. Full of delights from across the spectrum, the island boasts a number of sights known for their beauty, high romance quotient and “wow” factor. Offering an eclectic mix of landscapes that infuses the right amount of uniqueness and creativity into any destination wedding, Jamaica is the quintessential go-to when tying the knot in a tropical setting.

Runaway Bay and **Ocho Rios** are both situated in Saint Ann Parish on Jamaica’s northern coast. Beyond the ever-popular tourist attraction, Dunn’s River Falls, the area boasts winding white-sand beaches, hundreds of species of flora and fauna, and is considered one of the most naturally beautiful places on the island.

Always a popular choice, **Montego Bay**, is the capital of the parish of St. James and the fourth most populous city in Jamaica. From a photographic point of view, MoBay (as it is affectionately known) is dotted liberally with colonial buildings – the perfect settings for post-ceremony snaps. It’s also backed by rolling, low mountains, which often produce dramatic-looking cloud formations in contrast with the sun-kissed beaches.

Negril’s beaches are regularly rated among some of the best in the world. With unobstructed views of the horizon, the dazzling sunsets offer the perfect light for the end (or start) of seaside nuptials. For gorgeous pictures, travel along Lighthouse Road for some shots near the lighthouse and the dramatic cliffs it protects.



Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.

By Lena Desmond



BRIDAL JEWELLERY:

From fine lace embroidered with the finest threads to the ribbon wound sweetly around her waist, in summer 2015, the destination bride is making more than one statement on her wedding day. Her jewellery is no exception.

New era bridal jewellery is awe-inspiring and lavish, yet its sophistication overrides any appetite for bling. Today's trending statement pieces, like the designs from Pink Lovebird Boutique, strike a magnificent balance between the timeless elegance of the old world and the sparkling sensation of the new. The power of this style is that it catches the eye and directs it to the entire look.

Inspired by nature and time, brides are choosing pieces that use florals, soft colours, dramatic contrasts and subtle textures to add to their aura. Gone are the days of loud hues or flashy stones that overwhelmed bridal couture in years past, as we welcome a delicate fusion of classic elegance and modern sophistication that enhances the ensemble in its entirety.

What could possibly complement the twinkle in a bride's eye better than a weave of crystal laced around her neck? It is the embellishments that make her a work of art. Like her jewellery, she is the sum of a thousand tiny details that radiate from her like the sun reflects off crests in the sea.

▼ Sweet and simple sparkle

For brides favouring a sweetheart look, a petite collage of gold and crystal on the wrist is a popular contemporary alternative to the tennis bracelet. With a design that is both simple but elegant, detailed but light, the Arm Party Stretch Bracelet mixes texture and sparkle to impart a single impression on the wearer: Grace. Softened by the warm hues and livened by the crystal, a little sparkle goes a long way.



THE MARRIAGE OF SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW



◀ Dripping elegance

To complement any statement necklace or neckline, a simple yet stunning way to frame the face is with a subtle drip of crystal. Whether a bride's hair is fastened in an up-do or let loose, these Red Carpet Earrings will bring out the twinkle in a bride's eye without being overpowering. Classic, subtle and sweet, these earrings are the perfect embellishment to any dress, hairstyle or look.

► Rustic vintage meets modern shine

For the bride who wants a touch of glamour mixed with vintage charm, this rustic, crystal-studded statement piece accentuates any gown. Dubbed the Crystal Ribbon Necklace, it weaves crystals and glass of various cuts and shapes. Exuding 1920s charm, it also embraces modernity with its conservative length. Dazzling the eye and the neckline, this combination era piece is in and of itself a feast for the eyes.

► Dramatic highs and elegant lows

Flowers have moved from a mere sensory delight to an aesthetic one. Petals, once only found adorning table tops or in bouquets, now decorate blushing brides or newly-wed belles in a symphony of crystals, glass and colours. The Night Garden Necklace, with its rolling valleys and sharp peaks, brings to mind flowers under starlight. A contrast of sweet pastels and dramatic darks, it's subtle enough for an afternoon ceremony and bright enough for a honeymoon celebration for two.





▼ Romantic era inspiration

The blacks, emeralds and golds of the Romantic Era have not been lost to today's bridal world of white. While a splash of dark hues gives this bracelet an heirloom feel, a flower design, like the one in the Villa Medici Bracelet, brings the piece back to the trending present. For the bride or bridesmaid who savours a contemporary edge, an elegant, high-contrast bracelet makes a bold statement, melding old with new.



▲ A splash of the sea

Something old, something new, and something from nature, too. For the destination bride, there's nothing more beautiful than the riveting colours of a sunset or the tranquility of a still lagoon. Adding a splash of colour to a black and white affair is a beautiful way to pay homage to an idyllic wedding landscape while staying on trend. The Teatro Deco Necklace borrows a touch of sea foam green, the perfect complement to turquoise waters and a cloudless Caribbean sky.



Romance

Take one part romance, add one part luxury, a dash of sophistication and you have the perfect blend for an elegant Barceló wedding. With properties in some of the most idyllic destinations, Barceló can whip up your dream wedding and ensure it is a stress-free occasion, making both the day itself, and honeymooning, unforgettable.

Our exclusive resorts will cater to your every needs and tastes, and our experienced wedding planners will help you tailor your special day to be seamless and memorable. With 19 resorts across six stunning countries, having an experienced wedding planner arrange the wedding of your dreams at a Barceló Resort is a piece of cake.

Whether it be an intimate ceremony for two, or an event that includes the entire family, a Barceló wedding is a delicious affair that you'll savour for years to come. As one of the few chains that are registered to organize Hindu weddings (Barceló Maya Beach Resort and Maya Palace Deluxe), Barceló goes the extra mile to include any traditions and customs into your special day.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • MEXICO • COSTA RICA • CUBA

Barceló HOTELS & RESORTS



ENDLESS ROMANCE





REAL WEDDINGS DANIELLE & ADAM

The first day of our forever

It was his ability to make her laugh and his sense of optimism that attracted Danielle to Adam. The two met years ago over the summer working at a provincial park. That summer fling turned into a romance that would last beyond the bounds of the season.

Mesmerized by her beautiful eyes and her caring nature, Adam knew that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Danielle. As a creative way to propose to his beloved, Adam decided to make a scavenger hunt around the house.

He recounts, "To start the timeline, there was a sign on the ground that read: Before there can be forever, there has to be a first. After each rose was an item that represented a 'first' moment in our relationship (i.e. restaurant where we had our first date, a bottle of rum from our first vacation together – which happened to be a Sunwing vacation to the Dominican Republic, etc.)." A final sign rested at the end of the scavenger hunt, with Adam, ring in hand, standing beside it. The sign read: This is the first day of our forever.



Sweet Fire Photography.



A dream come true

Surrounded by 60 of their friends and family, Danielle and Adam celebrated their love and commitment with a beach wedding at the Dreams Tulum.

Accented with bright, tropical pinks and oranges, Danielle walked down the soft sand towards her beau in a white lace gown. Both agree that the walk down the aisle was their most memorable from that dream day.

"Seeing him at the end of the aisle, with the ocean extending behind him, made the wait all the more worthwhile," remembers Danielle.

Even through the tropical heat, which resulted in Adam trying to wriggle the ring onto Danielle's finger, the day was filled with laughter, love and the blessings of many of their loved ones.

Adam recalls, "I thought it was great that we were able to capture all 60 of our friends and family in a group photo where we can look back and remember all the fun we had on that day."



The evening saw the lovebirds and their wedding party make their way to the seaside grill, where the newlyweds shared their first dance as husband and wife to Ellie Goulding's *How Long Will I Love You*. Guests were also treated to custom-made t-shirts and sunglasses with a message that read "Mexico 2014."

Looking forward to some rest and relaxation post-wedding, Danielle and Adam extended their wedding vacation at the Dreams Tulum to celebrate their honeymoon, where they were surprised to find roses and champagne in their honeymoon suite. Talk about the perfect way to start a life of marital bliss!



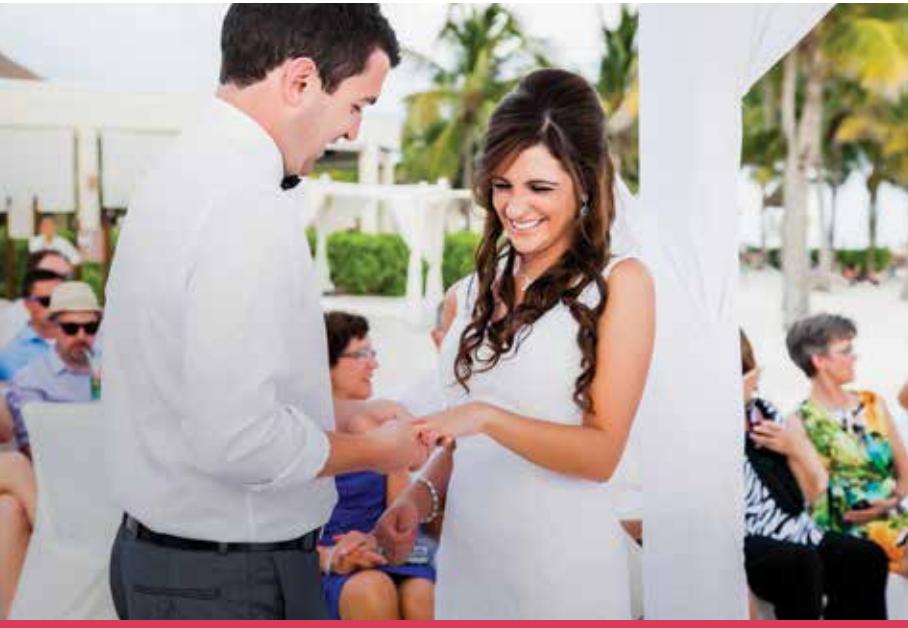
DANIELLE & ADAM'S TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS

- Planning a destination wedding, especially with a wedding planner, is one of the best ways to avoid stress. The further out you send invites, the more people will be able to attend.
- Book a resort with a wedding planner. They will take over all of the stress.



Sweet Fire Photography.

REAL WEDDINGS
DANIELLE & ADAM



Sweet Fire Photography.

GET THEIR LOOK

Danielle's gown: White lace, designed by Mori Lee.

Danielle's shoes: White flip-flops.

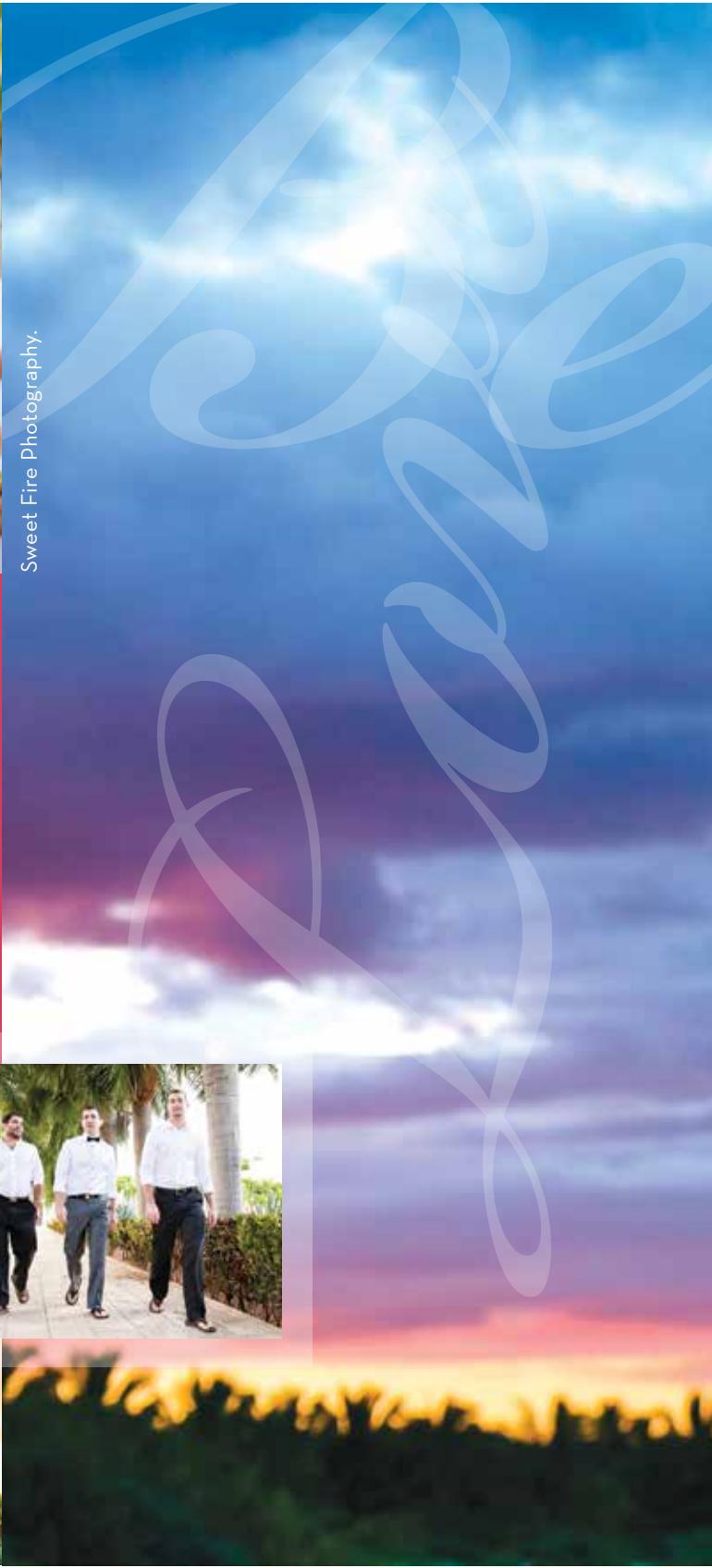
Adam's outfit: Grey pants, white shirt with black buttons, black bow tie, rolled up sleeves all by Calvin Klein; barefoot.

Bridesmaids dresses: Chiffon dresses in various shades of pink.

Groomsmen's attire: Grey khakis and white dress shirts.

Photographer: Sweet Fire Photography.

Hair & makeup: Dreams Tulum Spa.



To start planning a picture-perfect celebration like this, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com – your inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 



REAL WEDDINGS
DANIELLE & ADAM



A large, semi-transparent circular watermark featuring a heart shape is centered over the background image of a couple on a beach.

SAY, “SI” TO A DESTINATION WEDDING IN CUBA

Perfect weather, crystalline waters, spectacular scenery, centuries-old architecture, and exciting nightlife make Cuba the perfect destination to hold one of your most cherished celebrations. With so many beautiful locales to choose from, it's simply a question of, "where?"

Happily ever after in Holguin: Holguin's charm lies in the history of the city and beauty of its architecture. Choose one of its many quaint parks or historical sites as the ideal milieu for your wedding photos.

Vows in Varadero: Of course it's all about the beach in Varadero, and its powdery-white sands, azure waters and lush tropical setting are perfect for couples looking to swap oceanside "I do's".

Catch the bouquet in the Cayos: Cayo Santa Maria is a resort haven, and couples will have no trouble finding a place to host an intimate occasion or a grand affair. Better yet, book a catamaran for the ultimate luxury wedding. In Cayo Coco, couples can indulge in a dreamy beachside wedding – and maybe go for a honeymoon snorkel to explore the area's massive coral reef.

Handsome Havana: Take a step back in time with the old-fashioned cars and handsome colonial architecture of Havana. Cuba's largest city has numerous beautiful stone churches that set the stage for a wedding to remember.

While honeymooning on the island, be sure to visit one of its 70 theatres to take in an impressive live show – like the world-famous Tropicana featuring glamorous costumes and amazing salsa tunes.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



TANTALIZING TROPICAL INSPIRATION AT BREEZES



Located on some of the world's most romantic destinations, Breezes has created five new island-inspired wedding themes reflecting the breathtaking beauty and captivating colours of the natural surroundings. Delight in vibrant hues of our native island flowers, the soft pale shades of our fabulous sands and the deep romantic hues of the Caribbean Sea; these beautiful colour palettes will mirror how you feel about your special day and reflect the natural splendour of your chosen destination.

The choice is yours at Breezes, where you can choose from three different packages, ranging from a complimentary option to enhanced packages at additional fees. One of our knowledgeable wedding planners on site, wise in the ways of love, and master in the art of matrimonial bliss, will attend to every detail of your wedding, ensuring a stress-free and enjoyable experience. Best of all, Breezes Resort & Spa is Super-Inclusive®, which means you're free to think only of each other and the love you share without a moment's care for how you'll pay for those sunset cocktails on the beach.

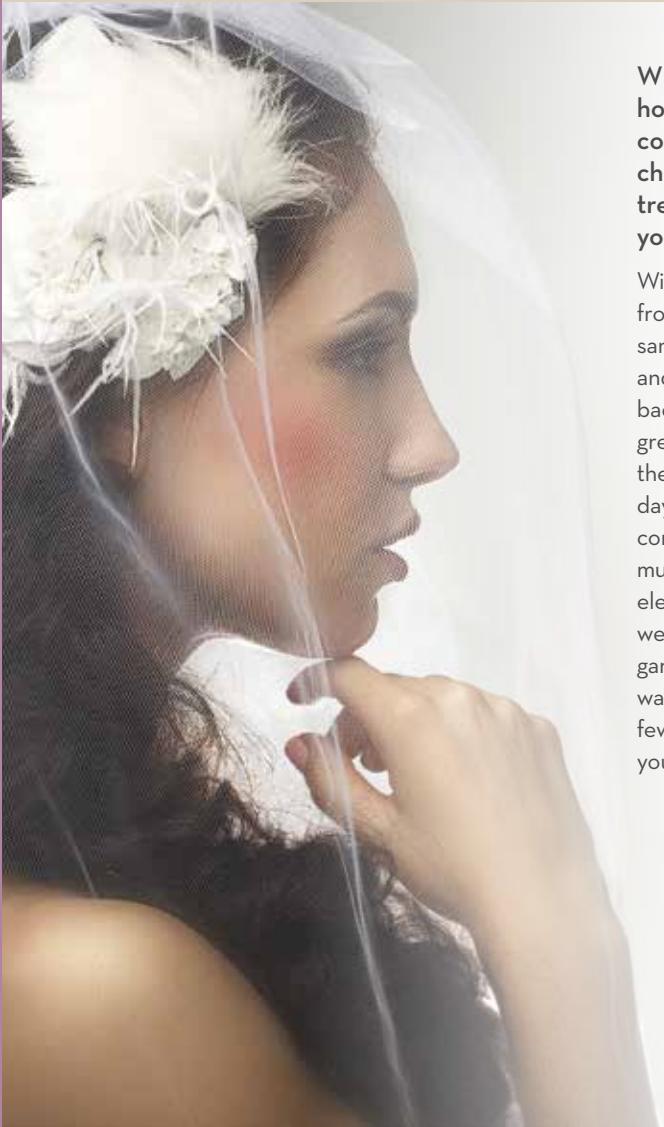
BREEZES BELLA COSTA BY SUPERCLUBS • BREEZES VARADERO BY SUPERCLUBS

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

BLOSSOMING TRENDS FOR SPRING

2015

by
Zeynep Tuck



Whether you are deep down the rabbit hole in the planning process with your consultant, or flirting with the idea of a charming destination wedding, these spring trends will help sprout some ideas to make your celebration truly unique

With a new season comes renewed inspiration from our budding natural surroundings. The same goes for trends in destination weddings and special occasions in paradise. The tropical backdrop of azure waters, cloudless skies and lush greenery in the destination of your choice will set the stage for romantic ambiance on your special day. Vintage-inspired, retro accessories and attire continue to reign bridal fashion this season, so much so that the nostalgia has permeated decor elements and DIY details, as well. Outdoor weddings by the ocean or in stunning tropical gardens fuse with the natural surroundings of warm-weather locales in sublime ways. Here are a few trends that are sure to spruce up the spirit of your tropical wedding.





SHORTER CEREMONIES

More brides and grooms want short and simple ceremonies without all the bells and whistles associated with chapel or church weddings. Traditional readings aren't as popular unless it has a significant connection to the bride and groom. These meaningful yet relevant ceremonies leave more time for the party, of course!

Celebrate





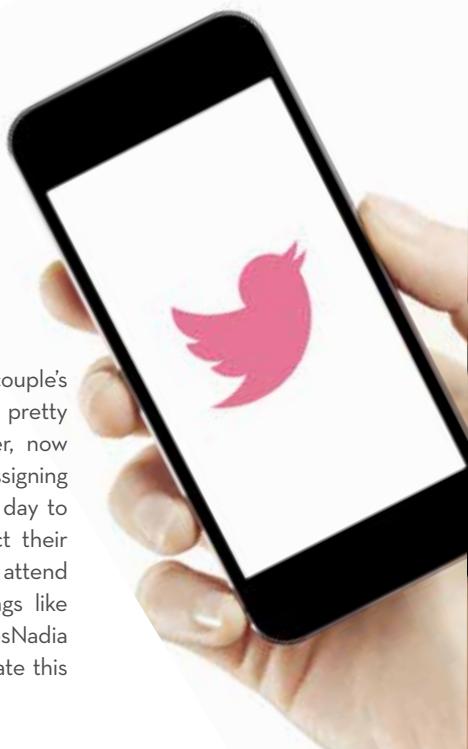
GIVING THE BRIDE AWAY

More and more frequently, the individual escorting the bride down the aisle varies. Rather than the traditional father-of-the-bride, brothers, mothers, children and grandparents are making an appearance. Some brides will even walk down the aisle alone as a symbol of her commitment and devotion to her groom.



UNIQUE HASHTAGS

Sharing in the joy of the happy couple's big day through social media is pretty commonplace these days, however, now some brides and grooms are now assigning a unique hashtag to their wedding day to start the conversation and connect their guests and those who couldn't attend through this special event. Hashtags like #AmandaLovesRob or #AdamMarriesNadia are cute and clever ways to celebrate this special day with your loved ones!



Children & Weddings

KIDS ON BOARD

As the demographics of our society continue to change, modern families have started to replace the traditional union of marriage. Many couples want to share their nuptials with the people that matter the most - and in many cases, it is their own kids that get to witness these special celebrations. Kid-friendly weddings and vow renewals add youth, playfulness and a sense of togetherness to the affair; and as more couples use their destination wedding as an excuse to have a family reunion of sorts, the presence of their younger nieces, nephews and cousins make their special day all the more memorable.



CANDY STATIONS

How can you resist sweets at a wedding? This is one of the easiest ways to your guests' hearts, and a great way to personalize the experience. From monogrammed M&M's to the liquorice you shared on your first date at the movies, there are many fun and unique ways to make your sweet station a sugar-coated success (and if you're wondering about weight restrictions on the jujubes or jelly beans, don't forget to check with your wedding consultant for the low-down on baggage allowance).



Colour palettes that POP



Cobalt and coral

Drawing from the deep-blue waters of many beachfront locales, and incorporating complementary coral conjures up flowing images of a mysterious yet exhilarating underwater world native to many tropical destinations. Not only do flower arrangements and decor get the best of this colour combo, but bridal attire from bridesmaids dresses to mother-of-the-bride outfits, and even groomsmen accessories, can easily include these versatile shades.



Adding a bit of flair to your destination wedding comes easy when you have the season's natural hues as your base. Here are five of our favourite colour schemes featuring bold colours to help get you inspired for your celebration in the sand



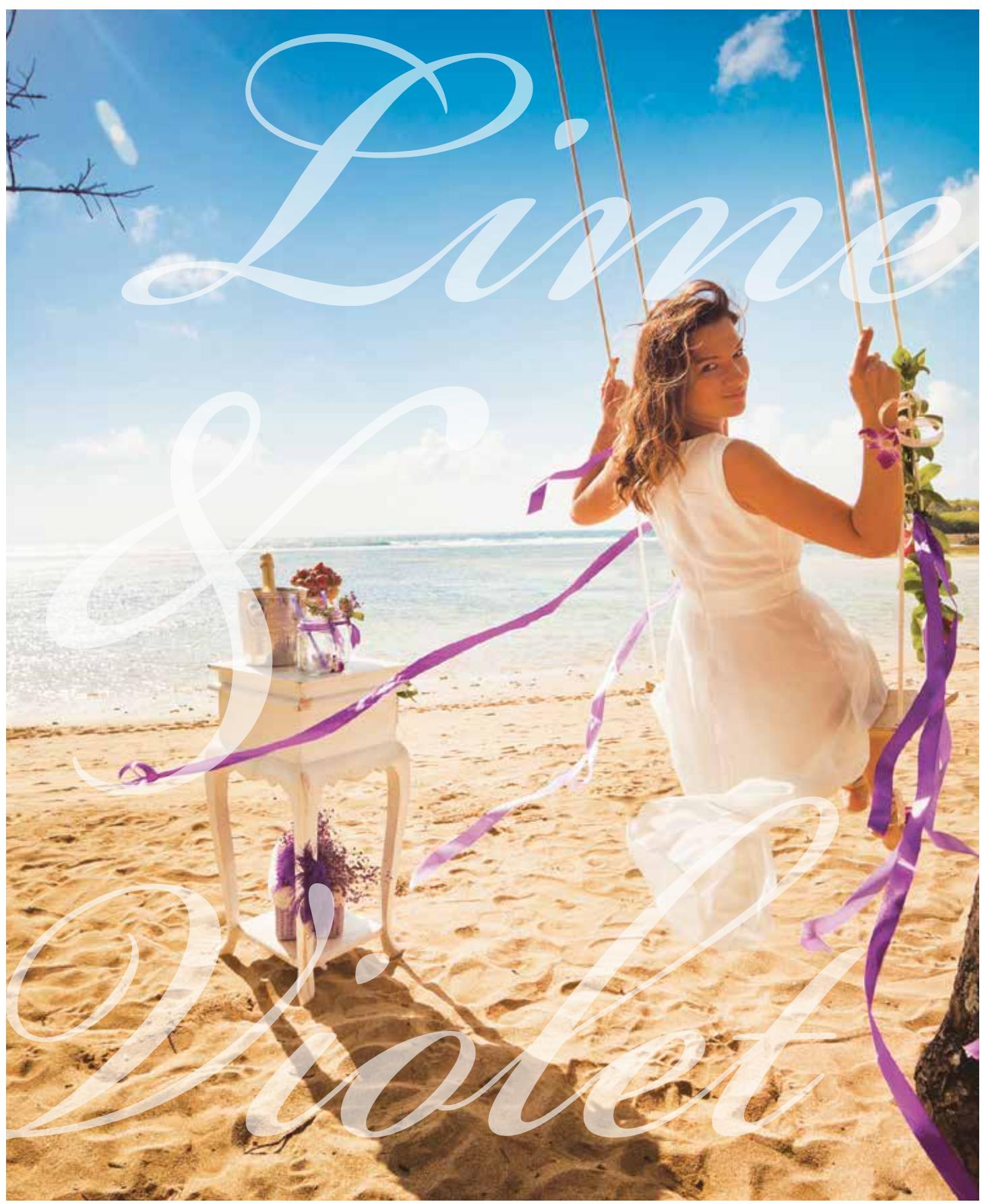
Originally published on the LUXE Destination Weddings blog.

Colour palettes that POP

Lime green and violet

It's not quite retro neon, but it is a colour that definitely pops when set against the rich hues of violet. This colour combination has a lot of examples in nature that you can draw on for inspiration, from lime slices and purple hyacinths that can be used as centrepieces to a wide selection of blooms for reception decor that can be found in your destination.









EXCHANGE VOWS AMID STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY

Couples who are considering a destination wedding outside of the traditional reception or banquet hall affair will certainly appreciate the naturally beautiful allure of Princess Hotels & Resorts.

Known for integrating into local environments and adapting design elements to natural settings, each Princess property is situated among lush landscapes - lending a spectacular and scenic backdrop for outdoor ceremonies and photo shoots.

From an intimate ceremony to a grand affair, the Princess hotels' staff will expertly attend to all the details; from dinner to decor, rest assured that everything will be handled with the greatest care. Afterward, couples and their guests can retreat to luxurious suites in stunning milieus and indulge in the various on-site amenities and nearby attractions unique to each Princess location.

Princess resorts are the perfect venues for all inclusive destination weddings, and the most treasured honeymoons.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



SUN-KISSED *celebrations* IN PARADISE



Planning the perfect wedding, honeymoon or special event in paradise comes with its wide range of choices, so where do you start? Most brides and grooms consider the resort even before the destination. RIU's renowned locations promise marvelous features and breathtaking backdrops for your ceremony in sought-after locales like Aruba, Nassau, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Martin and Mexico.

Choose your RIU

RIU Hotels & Resorts are a favourite among travellers seeking all inclusive special occasions in the most idyllic, tropical settings. At RIU Hotels & Resorts, we know that every wedding is unique, and our selection of destinations feature the most beautiful beaches and landscapes coupled with our flawless delivery of quality facilities, cuisine and highly personalized service.

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

Flaunt these features

Each RIU rolls out the red carpet for you and your guests with RIU®-topia features. Bringing style and elegance to your special day with specialty dining, the finest amenities

and top-notch service, RIU Hotels & Resorts take care of all the fine details to ensure that your event is a success! When you connect with a destination wedding consultant at WeddingVacations.com and express your desire to plan a wedding or special event at a RIU, you will be treated to a world of value and special bonuses. RIU-topia features include a delightful selection of services and amenities, like delicious welcome cocktails, limitless international beverages, unlimited dining at the resort's specialty restaurants, discounts and credits on various services, as well as in-room perks, like liquor dispensers, regularly re-stocked mini-bars and safes.

RIU offers three wedding packages across all hotels and resorts in the Caribbean and Mexico, as well as a free wedding package at select resorts. Here are just a few highlights of our stunning wedding offers to help you select just the right ambiance for your perfect celebration. RIU Hotels & Resorts are exclusively offered by Signature Vacations.

FANCY-FREE AFFAIRS

For those who want a beautiful wedding within a modest budget, the RIU free wedding package will fit the bill. This wedding package offers you access to a wedding coordinator who will assist you every step of the way leading up to your special day. In addition to decoration set-up for the wedding ceremony, couples will get a bridal bouquet and a matching

*"A destination
wedding is a truly
special way to celebrate
your love"*

SPOTLIGHT:
RIU HOTELS & RESORTS

boutonniere for the groom, music during the ceremony, and a semi-private dinner for the couple and 10 guests at one of the specialty restaurants. Brides and grooms can enjoy a spa surprise gift, their wedding cake to share with 10 guests, sparkling wine for 10 guests (during the main toast), a special decoration in the couple's room, as well as a 10% discount on all spa treatments for the couple and their wedding guests. Please note that some restrictions apply, and features are available at select destinations only.

IT'S A CLASSIC

RIU's Classic Wedding package has the perfect ingredients for a simple, yet elegant wedding in utopia. Complete with a RIU wedding coordinator on location to assist with the planning of your special day, and all the elements necessary for an unforgettable ceremony, this package offers romantic and intimate ways in which to start your lives together. With the RIU Classic Wedding package, the bride and groom will enjoy all the perks of the Free Wedding package, as well a minister or judge service, a wedding certificate, and a witness (if required), to make the union official.

THE ROYAL TREATMENT

The perfect balance between simplicity and extravagance, the RIU 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 include all the bells and whistles to make your special day perfect in every way. Splurge on all the features of the Classic Wedding package for 18 guests, along with a complimentary room upgrade for the wedding couple (subject to availability and restrictions upon arrival), RIU t-shirts for the bride and groom, a hotel surprise gift, and a complimentary, romantic massage for the bride and groom.



IRRESISTABLE CHARISMA AND CAPRICE

The RIU Caprice Wedding package is the most extravagant, elegant and comprehensive destination wedding option for couples who are envisioning a truly unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime celebration. This package provides an endless number of extraordinary details and amenities to ensure that your dream of a fairytale wedding truly does come true. A dedicated wedding coordinator on site, decoration and set-up for the ceremony, a bridal bouquet and matching boutonniere for the groom, music during the ceremony, a semi-private dinner for the wedding couple and 38 guests at one of our specialty restaurants, wedding cake, sparkling wine (during



the main toast), special decoration in the couple's room, a complimentary room upgrade for the wedding couple (subject to availability and restrictions upon arrival; excludes Jacuzzi Suites), RIU t-shirts for the bride and groom, a hotel surprise gift, a 10% discount on all spa treatments for the couple and their wedding guests, witnesses (if applicable), a minister or judge service, marriage certificate, and romantic massage for the bride and groom are all included in this lovely package. Over and above these perks, this package includes a hair styling and a manicure & pedicure for the bride, a late check-out for the wedding couple (subject to availability), breakfast in bed the morning after the wedding, fruit with chocolate, and a bottle of sparkling wine, along with two bags of flower petals. 

Wedding ideas for 2016

Consider a fairytale wedding celebration at one of the new RIU hotels, Riu Palace St. Martin or Riu Palace Antillas. Riu Palace St. Martin, situated on the pristine beaches of the Caribbean island of St. Martin, is the perfect locale for a dream wedding. Newly-opened, it's now ready to treat future brides and grooms to the gamut of delightful amenities and services that RIU has to offer.

Riu Palace Antillas is a 24-hour, all inclusive resort located on the gorgeous shores of Palm Beach, Aruba. Immersed in the most elegant Caribbean atmosphere, this adults only resort is ideal for a sophisticated and romantic wedding.

SPOTLIGHT:
RIU HOTELS & RESORTS

RIU SAVES THE "BIG DAY"

"I had a wedding planned at the Riu Sante Fe in Los Cabos but one day prior to when we were scheduled to fly out, Hurricane Odile hit and devastated Los Cabos. I was upset because I thought my wedding would have to be cancelled.

I called the RIU wedding department and they told me that the Riu Palace Paradise Island in The Bahamas had an opening for that date. Reluctantly, I agreed to change my plans and bring my group of 21 people to The Bahamas instead of Los Cabos. I was put in touch with Crystal, the wedding coordinator for Riu Palace, to start planning. She was absolutely incredible. She was attentive on the day of the wedding, and helped me with everything that I needed.

After all of the stress of planning a last-minute wedding, in a different country than I had originally planned, I could not have asked for a more perfect day. She gave me everything I could have imagined, and made our wedding the most amazing day of our lives."

- Gabby



absolutely all inclusive
Signature
vacations





PICTURE-PERFECT WEDDINGS AT THE RIU

A romantic seaside setting; friends and family gathered in joy and laughter; the finest in luxuries and sophistication... You will find all this, and more, at the RIU Hotels & Resorts.

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 breathtaking destinations, we'll surpass all of your expectations and make the most important day in your life perfect in every way. Our wedding packages were designed to fit your lifestyle, with each location promising different features and idyllic backdrops for your ceremony.

Consider a picture-perfect wedding at one of our incredible hotels in Mexico, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Panama, St. Martin, Aruba and the Dominican Republic. We even offer a spectacular option along the incredible Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Each location boasts unique settings, highlights and amenities that will best suit your unique tastes and personalities.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.





Aruba is a tiny Caribbean gem, a perennially sunny locale popular with the about-to-be-wed set, and for good reason; with its beautiful beaches and flourishing flora, Aruba's scenic options can make a couple's big day a remarkable occasion.

Blushing beach bride. If waves cresting over a stretch of white sand is the order of the day, then Eagle Beach is the destination. Situated just northwest of Oranjestad, Eagle Beach boasts a beautiful, powdery shoreline that earns it top spot on a plethora of "best beaches" lists.

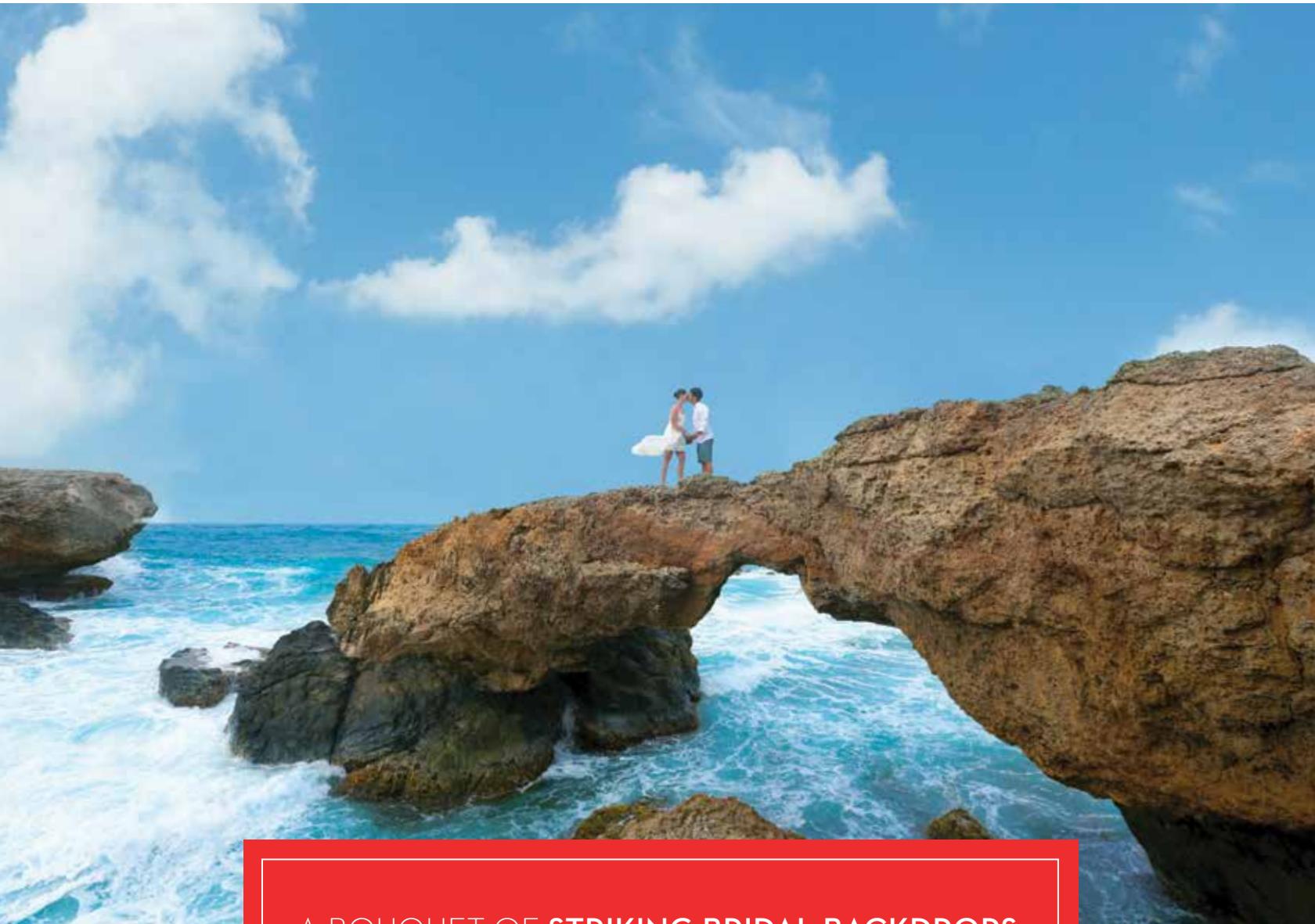
Natural nuptials. Earthy couples will appreciate the natural beauty of the stunning Ayo and Casibari rock formations. While the rugged terrain might pose a challenge for those bedecked in their bridal best, these giant boulders are part of a phenomenal

landscape. The best time to visit is early in the morning to beat the heat and the cruise ship crowds.

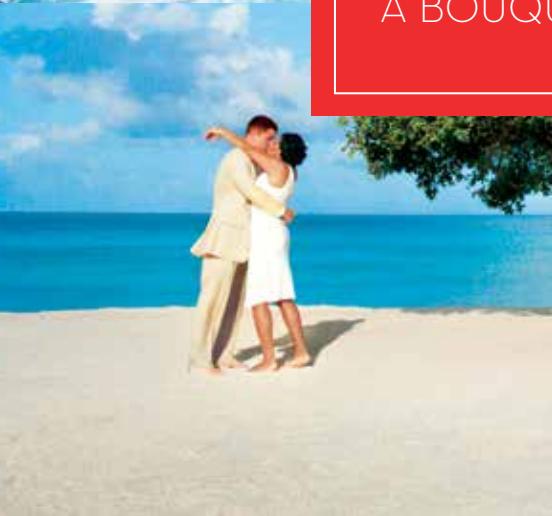
Surf's up. Andicuri Beach is a stunning black-pebble beach on the island's east coast. With its craggy cliffs and majestic surf, this hidden gem makes for great photo shoots. While swimming is not advised, the juxtaposition of the turquoise sea crashing against its unique shoreline is simply awesome.

Multi-coloured memories. The picturesque capital city of Oranjestad is impressive eye candy, with its Dutch colonial architecture awash in candy-coloured hues. Plaza Daniel Leo is ideally situated smack-dab in the centre of the fray, making it the perfect photographic outpost for more bridal photography.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



A BOUQUET OF **STRIKING BRIDAL BACKDROPS**







PARADISE MADE FOR TWO

The Evolution of All-Inclusive™

From Mexico to the Caribbean, Hyatt Zilara and Hyatt Ziva offer couples seeking the perfect place for a destination wedding a wide portfolio of luxurious, all inclusive resorts in some of the most popular and romantic locales.

Planning a wedding can be a logistical ordeal, but the family friendly Hyatt Ziva makes celebrating with your loved ones an affair to remember. From room types, dining and drinks, to activities and amenities that caters to all ages, your wedding consultant will work with the hotel's capable staff to ensure that all the planning and details are taken care of so you can relax and enjoy your special day.

After the big day, let love blossom! The adults only Hyatt Zilara offers sophisticated venues to set you on the right path to happily-ever-after with a special Romance Concierge to help coordinate romantic experiences throughout your stay. Enjoy couples massages, romantic beachside dinners or rose petals and champagne in your room. Toast to your love while sailing at sunset or snuggle in a hammock under a palm while beach butlers tend to your every whim.

Create new memories and celebrate the start of a beautiful life together at Hyatt Zilara and Hyatt Ziva.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW STRONGER

REAL PROPOSALS
MARK & LINDA



Uniting two families

Mark and Linda surely understand the old adage “absence makes the heart grow fonder.” When they found each other shortly after Valentine’s Day, while browsing an online dating site, they discovered there was a 90-minute travelling distance that separated them. Soon after they fell in love, Mark, from Chelmsford, Ontario, decided to sell his property and home of 27 years to be with Linda full-time in Little Current, Manitoulin Island, in Ontario. After a very busy year, which included the colossal task of moving and settling into a new life, the couple decided to plan for a much-needed romantic getaway, a getaway which, to Linda’s surprise, would herald the beginning of their life together as a married couple and unite their respective families.







CHAMPAGNE AND ROSES

It was Linda's beauty, kind-hearted nature, her "soft country voice" and great hair, that drew Mark in from the start! However, it was her deep connection to family and the warm welcome that Mark received from those closest to her which truly solidified his devotion to her. Easily identifying how much they had in common by way of personal interests, Linda likewise was attracted to Mark's welcoming, accepting family, his caring nature, honesty and sincerity, as well as the fact that he is a true romantic - all qualities she recognized as those of a unique and special man. A man who would later take the care, time and effort required to make his marriage proposal to her as beautiful and memorable as possible.

Family plays a large role in the lives of both Mark and Linda. Including Linda's family in his plans for her big surprise, Mark did not miss the opportunity to follow the traditional path of a man seeking to marry the love of his life. First, he asked Linda's



parents for their blessing and then, accompanied by her daughter Kayla, sister-in-law Amy and Amy's new baby Leta, Mark carefully selected an engagement ring from the local jeweller.

A trip to remember

Mark knew he wanted to use their romantic getaway to set the stage for his dramatic proposal. This getaway would be the perfect venue for him to pop the question! He discussed his plans with his travel agent who put him in contact with Sunwing Airlines to get all of the details just right. The cabin crew were very excited for him, and played a big part in making his proposal go off without a hitch; helping with Mark's pre-proposal jitters, cheering him on by demonstrating their approval of his choice of engagement ring, bolstering his confidence for the big moment, and following up by sending champagne and plenty of congratulations to the newly engaged couple when they arrived at the resort.

Upon landing in Cayo Guillermo, Cuba, Mark and Linda were made to feel like celebrities at the Sol Cayo Guillermo, with flowers and a cameraman to greet them and document their happy occasion. At the hotel, champagne and roses met them upon check-in, and in-room romantic surprises would highlight every night of their stay. Mark and Linda were also treated to a private romantic dinner on the hotel grounds and felt positively wonderful throughout their vacation.

Given the strong connection to family they both feel, and the warm welcome both have received from each other's families – it is no surprise that they are taking extra time to plan their perfect wedding and ensure memorable festivities for everyone they love. Mark and Linda will say their vows in the church where Linda's parents were wed 50 years ago. The couple plans to tie the knot and unite their two families over the coming year.

For more proposal ideas and inspiration, visit weddingvacations.com. 



BEYOND A JOURNEY DOWN THE AISLE



Contrary to what some might think, The Bahamas is more than one single island paradise; rather, it is a collection of islands, islets and cays scattered over hundreds of kilometres across the Atlantic Ocean.

The great Grand Bahama Island

As a wedding destination, many couples gravitate toward Grand Bahama Island – among the most popular of the island group – due to its dazzling beaches and spectacular shopping. However, with three national parks and wonderous underwater cave systems, there are many eco-adventures waiting to be had in Grand Bahama. Visit Lucayan National Park for its trails, and discover six distinct ecosystems, or kayak through Ben's Cave, one of the world's largest submerged systems.

Couples who fancy long walks and even longer hikes will enjoy exploring the cliffs and crags of the beaches in Exuma (with warm-water tide pools at the end of a long trek), while the island's swimming pigs are a see-it-to-believe wonder!

It's nice in Nassau

Nassau is home to several attractions, one of which is the centrally-located Straw Market. Here, Bahamian women handcraft hats, mats, and baskets. Fine wooden carvings, colourful fabrics, and other souvenirs are also for sale and would make lovely thank-you gifts for your wedding party. Although a fire destroyed the historic market building in 2001, the market continues as an enduring and popular mainstay.

After exchanging vows on the beach at sunset, The Bahamas is a fascinating and unique after-wedding retreat, making it the kind of destination that gives couples a head start on happily ever after.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



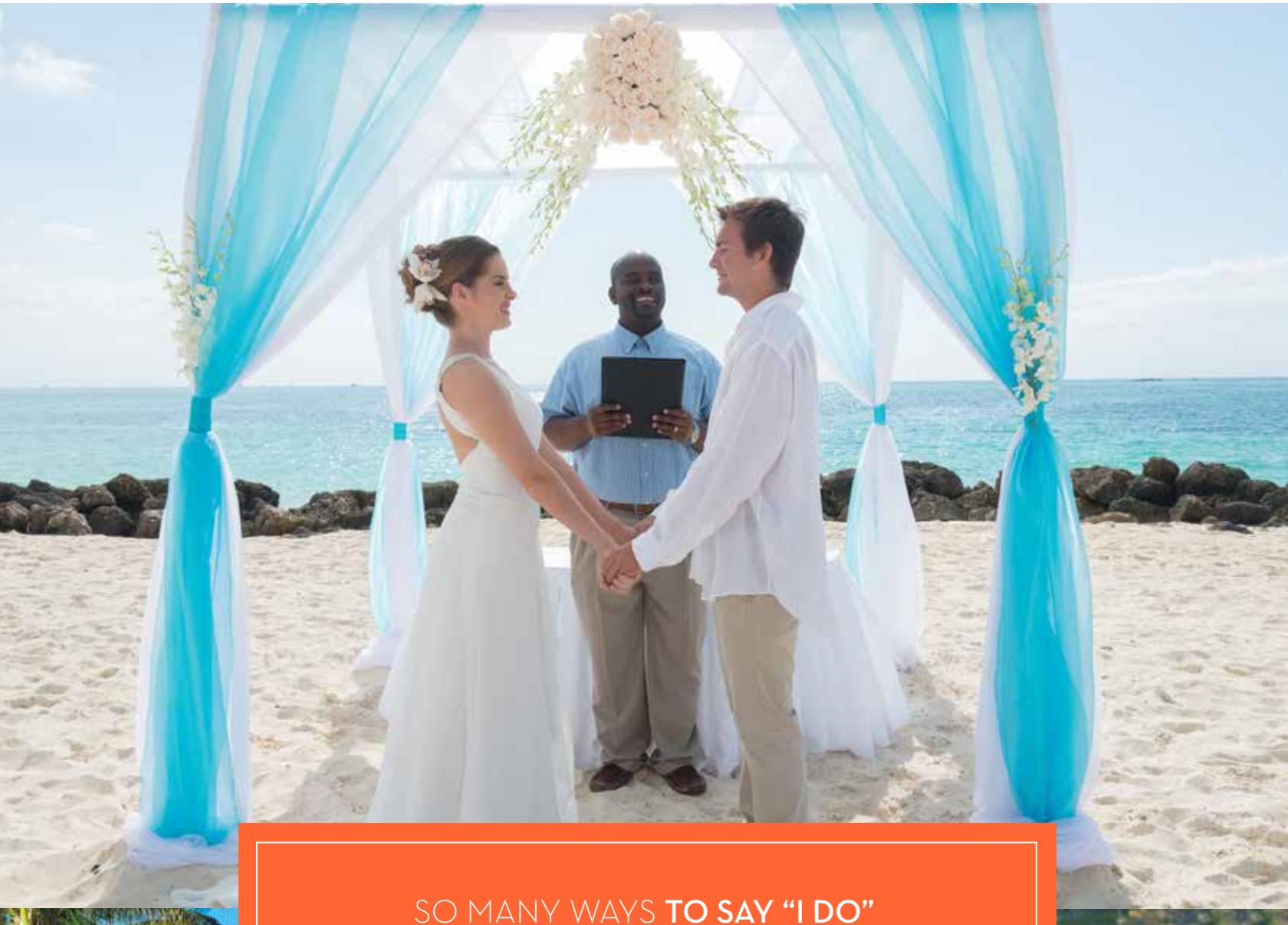
Most couples dream of a destination wedding in a locale (not too far from home) with aquamarine skies, turquoise waters and powder-soft beaches. With more than 700 cays, gorgeous reefs, beaches, parks, botanical gardens, churches and fan-favourite sights, Grand Bahama Island is sure to deliver the kind of wedding-day magic couples seek.

Grand Bahama Island is a wonderland of sights, sounds and exciting attractions - giving couples unlimited options and ways to declare their love for one another. The island boasts a memorable mix of historic charm, modern attractions and ecological wonders - all perfect backdrops for the big day.

Couples and guests will delight in the island's variety of boutique shopping, exciting attractions, gourmet dining, authentic markets, and a host of land and water activities. Diving enthusiasts will revel in its underwater world while golfers can practice teeing off on the island's many world-class greens.

Sea and sun-seeking newlyweds will bask in the warmth of the sunshine, the short flight, and the hospitality of the locals on this popular Caribbean island.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



SO MANY WAYS **TO SAY “I DO”**



Fatima Andre





WHEN A WEST-END BOY MEETS AN EAST-END GIRL



REAL PROPOSALS **FATEMA & ANDRE**

Friends for life

The west-end boy meets the east-end girl and in this case, opposite sides of the city attract! Best friends, Andre and Fatema both moved to Canada when they were young. More specifically, they moved to opposite sides of the Greater Toronto Area. Andre, who was born in Brighton, England, moved to Canada at age 5, settling just west of Toronto in the city of Mississauga, while Fatema (who was born in Canada but moved to the Congo while her father was on business and returned to Canada at age 14) resided in Scarborough, Toronto's eastern borough. Living at opposite sides of the city, fate eventually brought them together as friends. Now, as a couple, Andre and Fatema value life-long friendship and see it as a fundamental part of a lengthy marriage. Friendship has been at the core of the bond that they share, as they have been friends for many years.

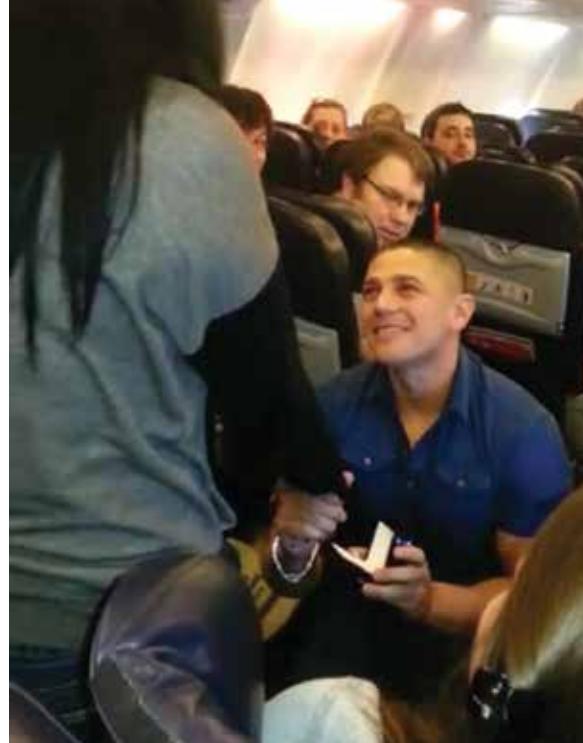
Andre knew he wanted to surprise Fatema with a marriage proposal while on their trip to Cuba, and he wanted to do something that she wouldn't expect. His parents recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and he asked them for the secret to their longevity – they responded "friendship." Andre knew he was on the right track.

Surprising Fatema was going to be a challenge for Andre because he knew that she suspected a proposal "on the horizon." But this didn't discourage him, because he enlisted the help of Sunwing Airlines staff. Taking his cue on Valentine's Day, Andre tried throwing Fatema off by asking her to pack one suitcase for a cold weather trip and another for a warm sunny trip, and that he would tell her the day of their departure which one to bring. The surprise came during the flight, where a scene out of a Hollywood movie took place. After sparkling wine was served on the flight, a Sunwing

flight attendant announced, "Now that we all have sparkling wine, it would be nice if we had something to celebrate." Andre was called upon to help provide a reason to celebrate. Getting down on one knee in the aisle, he proposed to Fatema, and upon her acceptance the other passengers applauded!

Popping the question

Andre's romantic gesture was well-planned in advance - he wisely made arrangements before his departure. Contacting his travel agent, he was put in touch with a Sunwing representative to discuss details. The cabin crew, and everyone involved, was supportive and played a part in his proposal's success. Upon arrival to the Royalton Cayo Santa Maria, a Sunwing exclusive resort, in Cuba, Fatema got a second surprise when the hotel staff helped the newly-engaged couple continue their celebration with their superior service and other romantic perks and surprises.





REAL PROPOSALS
FATEMA & ANDRE



During their long friendship, Andre and Fatema got to know each other without the “masks” that people wear in the early stages of dating, and this allowed them to be honest and open about what they were looking for in a life partner, including shared values, goals and “bucket lists.” Andre and Fatema have not yet set a date for their nuptials and are enjoying life as fiancées for the time being. When they do pick a date to tie the knot, they plan on a destination wedding and hope to include Sunwing in their travel plans – a fitting way to celebrate the beauty of their friendship as a newly-married couple.

For more proposal ideas and inspiration, ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com.



VALENTIN IMPERIAL MAYA

RIVIERA MAYA



Set amid lavish gardens on a stretch of white-sand beach, surrounded by azure waters and a lush landscape, Valentin Imperial Maya immediately sets the stage for a perfect wedding in paradise.

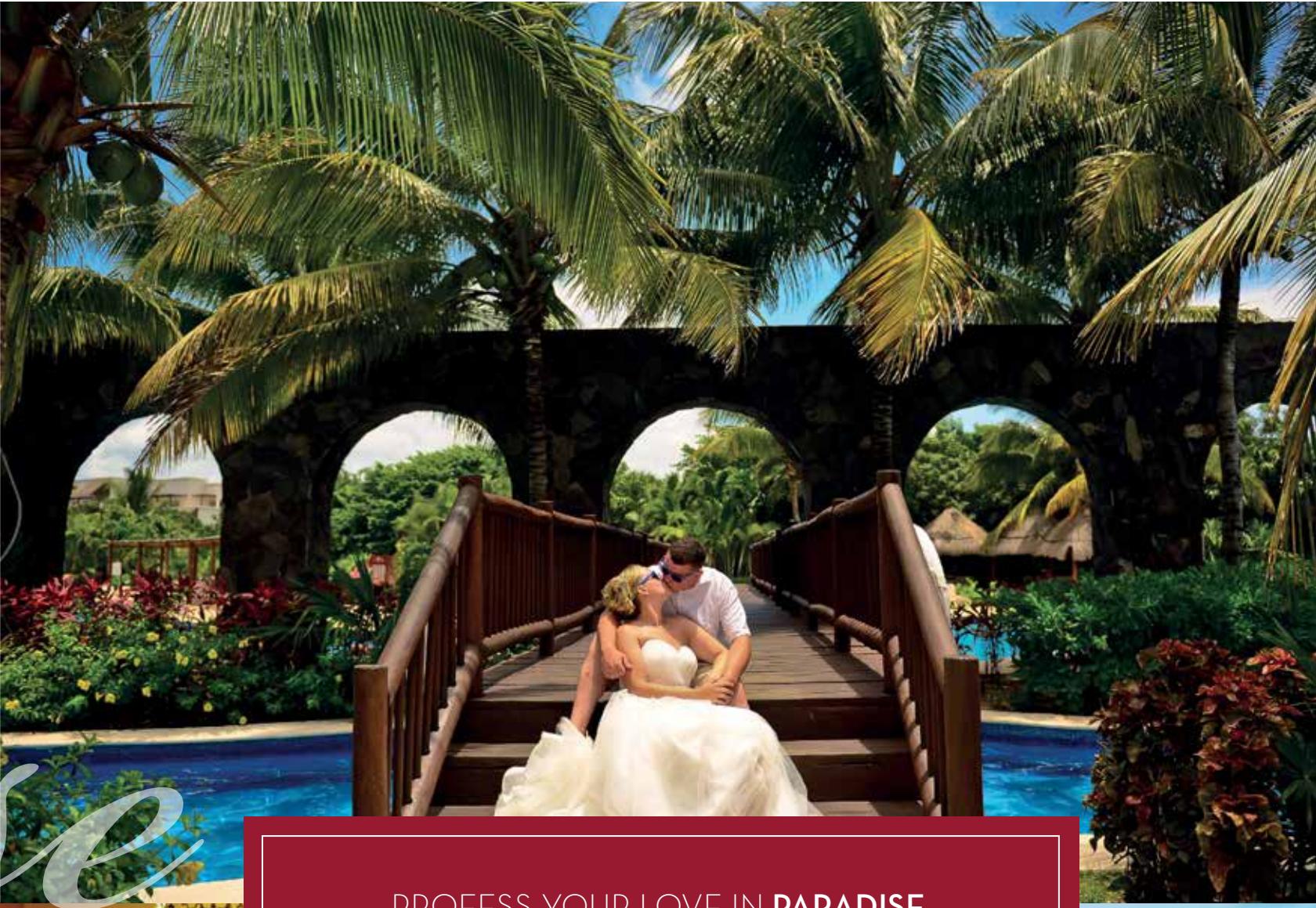
What better locale to celebrate such an important day than the gorgeous landscape of Riviera Maya? Inspired by the area's rich cultural history and grand haciendas of the past, Hotel Valentin will add beautiful, sentimental touches that will make this occasion an exceptional day to remember.

The hotel offers wedding packages to suit every taste ranging from contemporary "I do's", to the complete cultural experience, including a traditional wedding ceremony and prayers in the Mayan language, blessings, and offerings of flowers, maize or chocolate, as well as drummers, a fire pit and more!

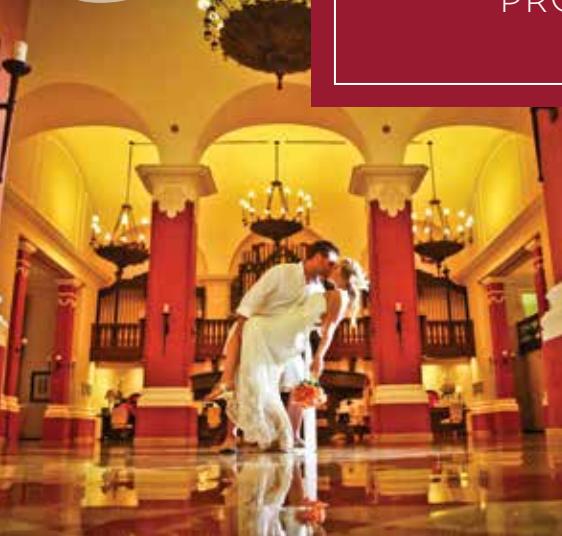
During this wedding vacation, couples and their guests can retreat to luxurious accommodations that seamlessly blend old-world Mexican charm with modern amenities - a delightfully serendipitous take on the marital maxim, "something old, something new."

There is no shortage of things to do in the area and on site, but if fine cuisine is the draw, the Valentin offers some of the finest around. For newlyweds, or those in search of a little romance, the concierge can arrange to have a cozy dinner *à deux* served on the beach, where couples can gaze lovingly into each other's eyes and fall in love with the surf's song.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



PROFESS YOUR LOVE IN **PARADISE**



WE MAKE JOURNEY SEASIDE BESS A BREEZE



SUN-KISSED NUPTIALS ARE WITHIN REACH *Your unique story and vision deserves a beautifully-designed wedding.*

Planning a destination wedding in the tropics can seem like a daunting task, and many couples struggle to start the process as they are full of unanswered questions: which vendors can cater to my tastes and needs? Which resorts are suitable for my budget? How do I get all of my invitees to the destination?

Sound familiar? Fear not. These days, an increasing number of brides and grooms-to-be are seeking the expert advice and planning services of a wedding consultant. From vendor lists, to first-class resorts, and spreadsheets to keep all your ducks in order, the invaluable help of a wedding planner is a source of relief that many couples are now seeing as a necessity, as they look to exchange vows abroad.

Luckily, when you book your wedding with one of our travel partners, you can enhance your wedding package by choosing a customized wedding planning service. Complementary to your hotel's on-site wedding coordinator, this personal wedding specialist is your contact in Canada, who will help you plan and execute all the details of your wedding in advance of your arrival in destination.

Our network of expert destination wedding consultants will work on your behalf directly with the hotels and wedding vendors as the personal ambassador of your "brand." We understand the needs of a single busy bride and her hubby-to-be, and have worked



These travel agents can make suggestions on their destination to provide peace of mind that your celebration will go off without a hitch. They also have a tight network of contacts on site to help take care of all the details for you without stress.

Whether you've dreamed of a gala reception with all the bells and whistles, or a small gathering on the beach, we can tailor-fit your celebration to your distinct tastes, needs and budget. Take a look

at our Gold and Platinum wedding planning services offered by our travel partners to decide which type of service suits your needs best. We look forward to helping you plan a stress-free wedding in the sun!

To learn more about these services, contact your travel agent or visit [weddingvacations.com](http://www.weddingvacations.com) to connect with an experienced wedding consultant.

DIAMOND

Wedding package

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

Start planning your special
celebration with us today at
[weddingvacations.com!](http://weddingvacations.com)



DIAMOND

Designed with ease in mind, this package allows you to plan your destination wedding with the help of a friendly and professional wedding consultant 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 a 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 a 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 consultant 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)

PLATINUM

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

Package rate: \$999

The Platinum package includes 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

Additional wedding planning hours:

One-hour wedding planning session: \$99

Get started today!
Visit weddingvacations.com

PLATINUM

Wedding package



TRUST THE EXPERTS AND BREATHE EASY



Frequently Asked Questions

Today, 80% of Canadians hire a wedding planner for local weddings, and this trend is growing as more and more brides and grooms-to-be jet off for unions in an exotic locale. Why sacrifice the chance to enjoy stress-free planning just because you have chosen to marry your soulmate in a faraway land? Leave all the details, big or small, to our team of trusted partners, and breathe easy.

Find out why so many Canadian couples have trusted their most precious day to our wedding partners.

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

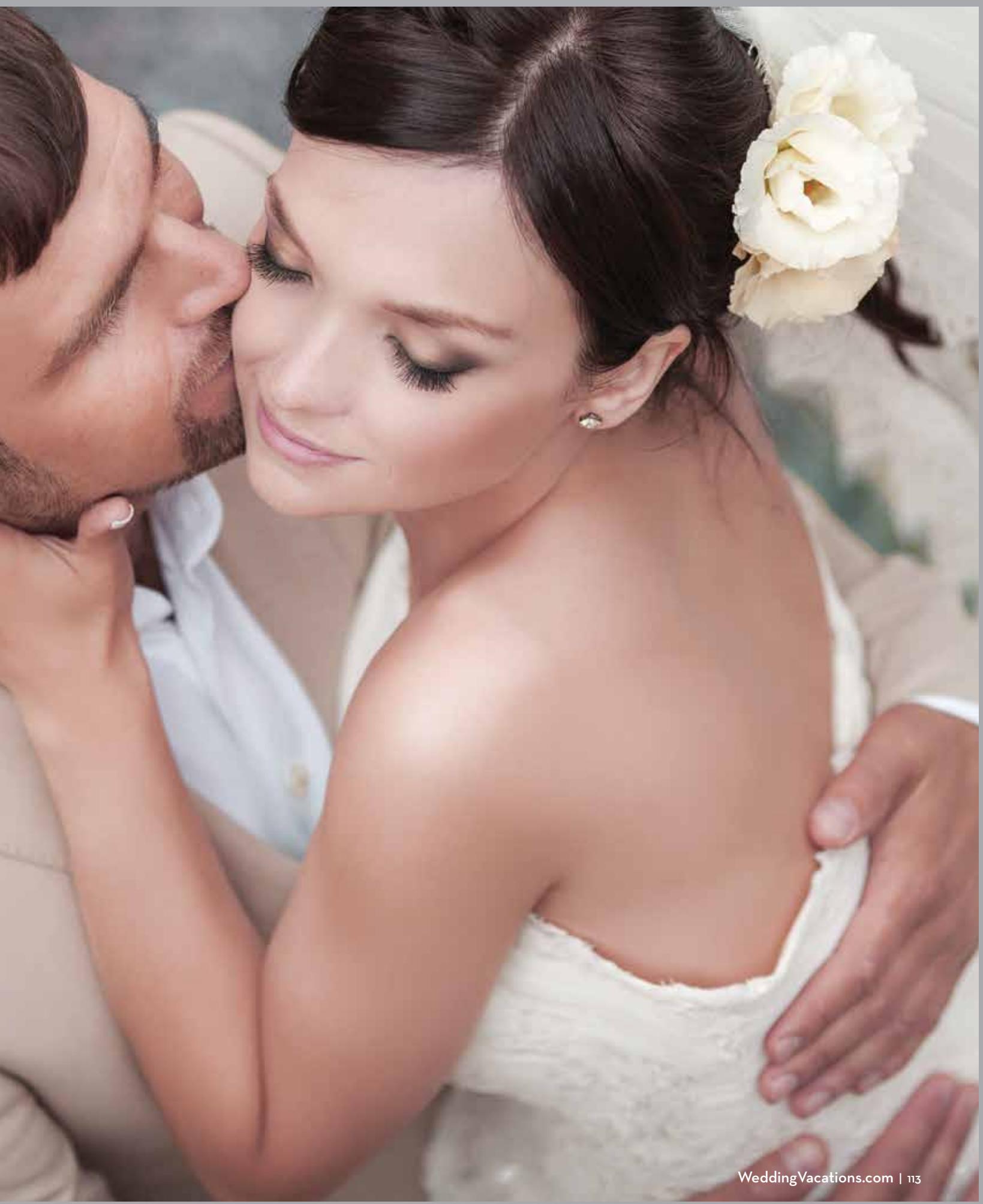
Your personal, dedicated consultant lives in Canada, and from day one of your planning, he or she will be there to ease your stress and answer your questions and concerns promptly – you won't have to wait to hear back from reps in another country. The knowledgeable consultants from our preferred partners are creative and have expertise working with a wide variety of properties, venues and wedding vendors – they'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 consultant.

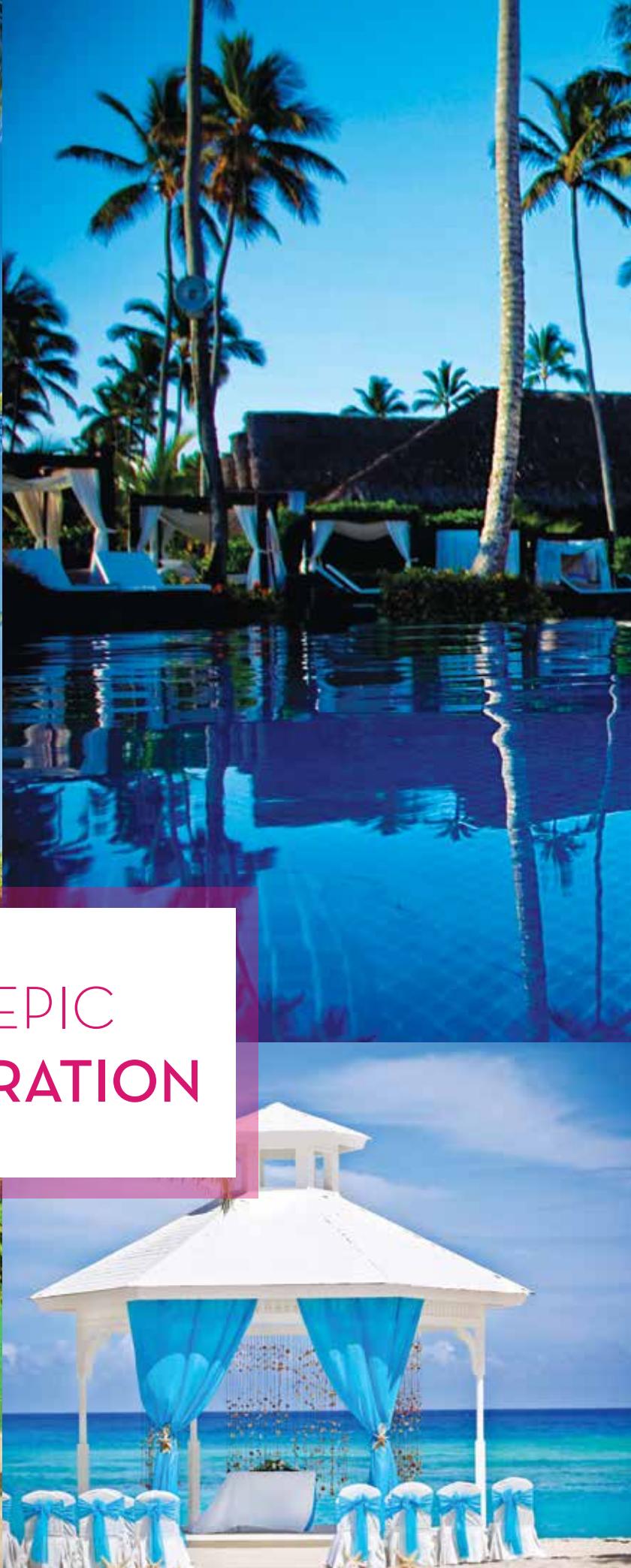
2) What are the key benefits of having a wedding consultant?

Our partners are among the most seasoned in the business and offer everything from tips on packing and bridal style to up-to-the-minute reviews on the latest luxury resorts and honeymoon destinations. What's more, these savvy consultants offer great perks, group discounts, and access to the most exclusive resorts in the most romantic destinations. Lastly, and most importantly, you will have the peace of mind that you're working with a certified destination wedding specialist while planning your wedding; have confidence that your wedding planner speaks your language; understands your vision; and knows how to execute it.

3) Where else can I go to get expert advice on wedding planning?

Check out weddingvacations.com – a true one-stop-shop, featuring community forums, articles, and consultations with seasoned wedding planners, WeddingVacations.com covers everything from sizzling locales and exclusive resorts to the tips and trends to ensure that every celebration is unique and stress-free. Inspiring and engaging readers with fresh, trending ideas, weddingvacations.com serves up the content that brides, newlyweds and romantic couples crave. Peruse Real Weddings features for tips and advice from real couples; chat with other like-minded brides on a range of topics on the WV community; browse through a number of top-notch resorts for your romantic milestones; and much more.





AN EPIC CELEBRATION



MAJESTIC *Resorts*

Solidify your romantic union under the swaying palm trees and the song of the sea at Majestic Resorts. Majestic Resorts offers unparalleled venues in idyllic locations to exchange vows with your beloved. Say, "I do" on a beautiful white-sand beach, in a charming wedding gazebo or in our on-site chapel – the choice is yours at Majestic.

Whether you choose elegant family-friendly settings boasting a wealth of sports and activities, sophisticated digs with a superb selection of amenities and services, or an opulent adults only retreat complete with a high-end menu of facilities and offerings, there's a Majestic resort that will delight every bride and groom.

A wedding at Majestic Resorts includes a wedding planner that will facilitate your special day both before and after your arrival and includes a delicious wedding cake, a tropical flower table arrangement, a tropical bouquet for the bride and boutonniere for the groom, ironing of the gown and tuxedo, sound system and translation of the ceremony, champagne toast for the group after the ceremony, romantic candle-lit dinner for the couple, complimentary massage for the twosome, and much more! Full customization of wedding packages is also available.



For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

REAL WEDDINGS CARALIN & CHRIS

The early morning commute into downtown Toronto was always Chris' favourite time of day. Bleary-eyed with an extra large coffee-in-hand, he would wait in anticipation for the girl with the gorgeous smile. Meanwhile, Caralin couldn't help but notice the handsome fellow on her daily train ride whose mesmerizing eyes she couldn't forget throughout the work day. The story of Chris and Caralin may have started in the most unlikely of places - on board a commuter train - but this rush-hour romance turned into a relationship that went beyond the daily 9-to-5 grind.

Frequent travellers to the balmy Caribbean, it only made sense to Chris that this would be where he would ask the love of his life to marry him. The twosome found their way to Puerto Plata, along the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. Venturing off to a secluded beach with a priceless vista of the water, Chris knew that this was the moment of truth.

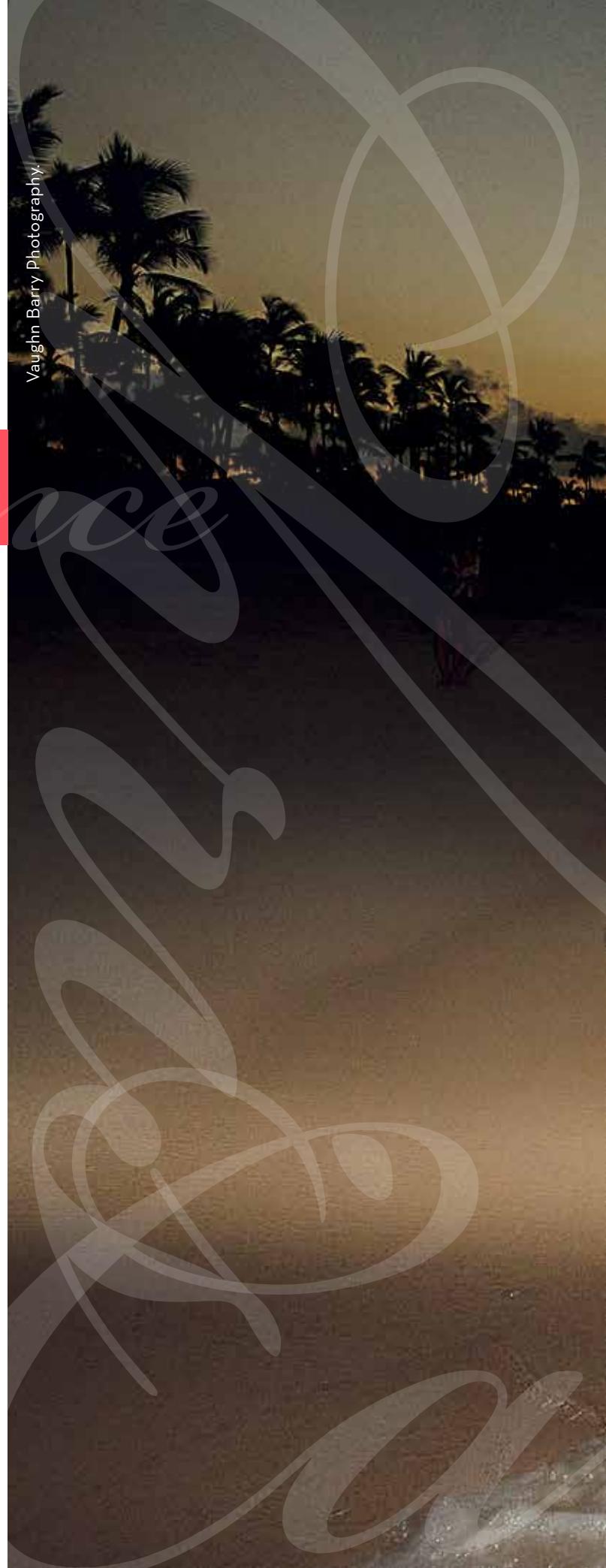
"I told her how I felt and that life apart would be no life at all. I proposed and she accepted. There [were] more mushy details in between but being there together, where we love to be, made the engagement that [much] more amazing," he remembers.

Dominican dreams

The sounds of the ocean and the breathtaking view provided the perfect setting for this love-struck pair to say, "I do" in front of 70 of their closest friends and family. Continuing their Dominican theme, the pair held their wedding, accented in a cheery palette of turquoise, pink, purple and green, at the regal Majestic Colonial Punta Cana.

"The location of the ceremony was perfect," Chris enthuses "[Blue ocean], the white sand and the gazebo were all great." Undoubtedly, Caralin's most memorable moment was, "Saying 'I do' to the man I could not live without, surrounded by my most favourite people, palm trees and the sand between my toes."

Vaughn Barry Photography





After the ceremony, the elated group made their way to the Parrots Bar to continue their celebrations into the night. As a surprise to Caralin, her bridesmaids and friends decorated the reception gazebo with lanterns, lights and signs, adding to the magic of their tropical nuptials. Never one to miss out on surprising his new wife, Chris had something else planned up his sleeve. After their first dance to Train's *Marry Me* and with the help of a few vodka and waters - their signature wedding drink - Chris and his groomsmen enacted a steamy striptease dance for the new bride that, as Caralin recounts, "would be unforgettable...not only for me!"

Paying homage to her Chinese roots, guests took home red sedan chair boxes (which Chinese brides get carried in to meet their groom) filled with lucky candy as favours.

The newlywed lovebirds made their way over to Jamaica where they enjoyed a quiet honeymoon.





Real Weddings

CARALIN & CHRIS

Vaughn Barry Photography.

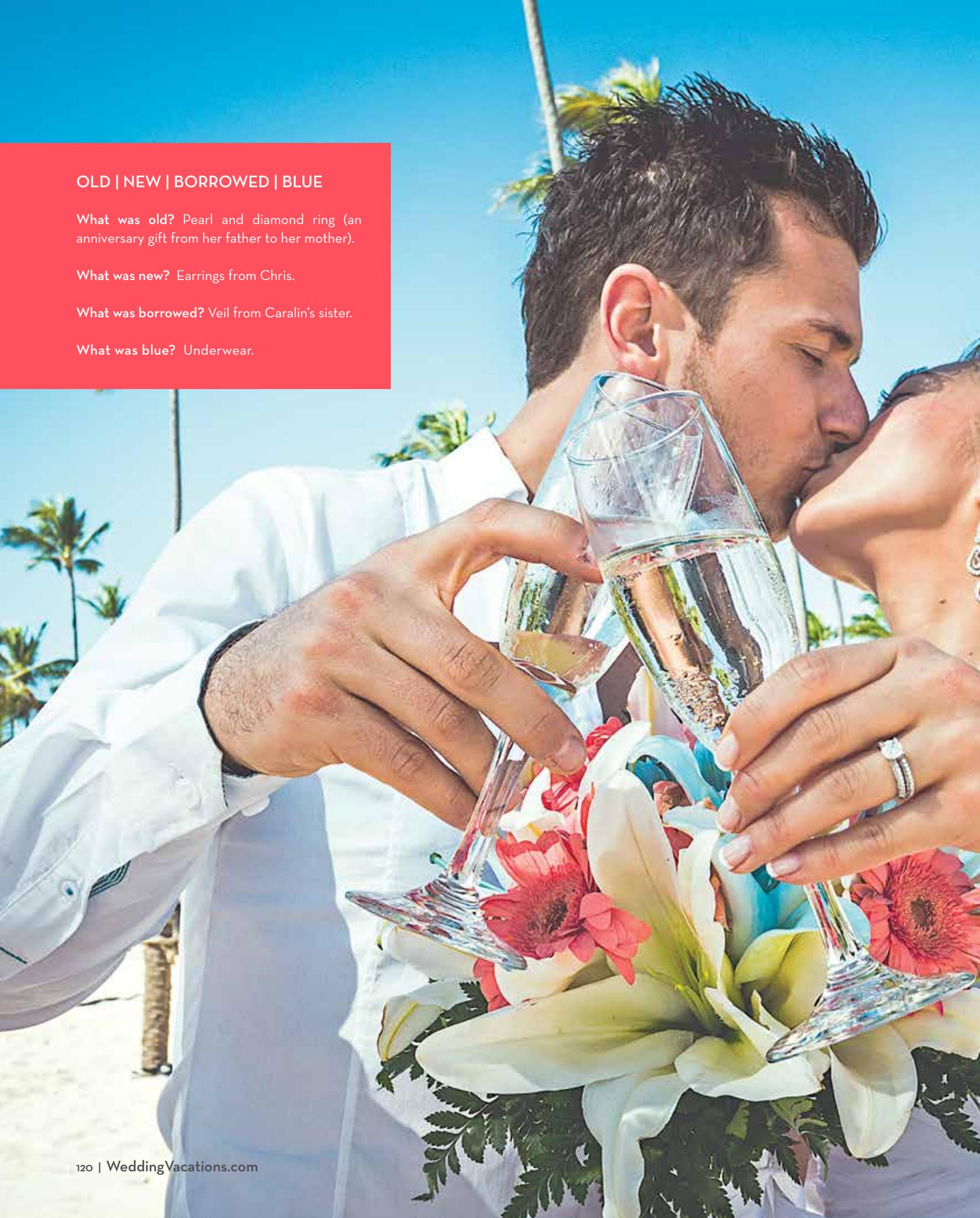
OLD | NEW | BORROWED | BLUE

What was old? Pearl and diamond ring (an anniversary gift from her father to her mother).

What was new? Earrings from Chris.

What was borrowed? Veil from Caralin's sister.

What was blue? Underwear.



REAL WEDDINGS
CARALIN & CHRIS



Vaughn Barry Photography

**CARALIN & CHRIS'
TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS**

- It's so simple to plan a wedding abroad - everything seemed to be taken care of by the wedding planner.
- I just had to show up and marry my beautiful wife.

GET THEIR LOOK

Caralin's gown: White tulle, Mori Lee.

Caralin's shoes: Barefoot.

Chris' outfit: A mix and match of various brands.

Bridesmaids dresses: Coral knee-length dresses, Aritzia.

Groomsmens attire: A mix and match of various brands.

Photographer: Vaughn Barry Photography.

Hair: Majestic Spa and Esthetics.

To start planning a picture-perfect celebration like this, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 





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Experience an exceptional destination wedding at Starfish Resorts. With the help of our weddings experts, rest assured that every detail of your special day will be handled with style and skill. Offering destinations weddings that come together in perfect harmony, Starfish Resorts can help you design the wedding you've been envisioning.

Starfish Resorts also provides the perfect paradise for the honeymoon of your dreams. Whether you are seeking to relax in tropical surroundings with your sweetheart, or choose to take advantage of special honeymoon packages, Starfish Resorts offers you the perfect backdrop for romance.

Located alongside the sublimely soft, white-sand beaches of Cayo Santa Maria, the all inclusive Starfish Cayo Santa Maria offers guests a wonderful vacation escape that includes lush natural settings, 24-hour food and beverage service, memorable excursions, and a variety of fun activities. Starfish Cuatro Palmas is an all inclusive retreat nestled along the sandy beachfront of Varadero, Cuba. Guests will immediately be drawn to the picturesque surroundings - patioed courtyard, terra cotta rooves, tropical gardens and vibrant nightlife.

Starfish Cayo Santa Maria, Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba

Starfish Cuatro Palmas, Varadero, Cuba

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

WORLD WEDDING CEREMONIES AROUND THE WORLD

By Joe Tuck

Here are some unique wedding traditions from around the world to inspire you to bring a touch of tradition to your special day. If your wedding is destined to be in one of these locales, add a local flair to it, and slot in one of these merry customs

From the smashing of dinner plates to a chickpea facial; ceremonial arrivals on horseback to tin cans and boots hanging from the back of a departing town car; and even the sacrificing of a goat; the deeply affectionate, personal, historical and cultural ways of celebrating the union of two people who want to share their lives together knows no bounds. Each custom makes this indescribable alliance tangible and real.

MEXICO

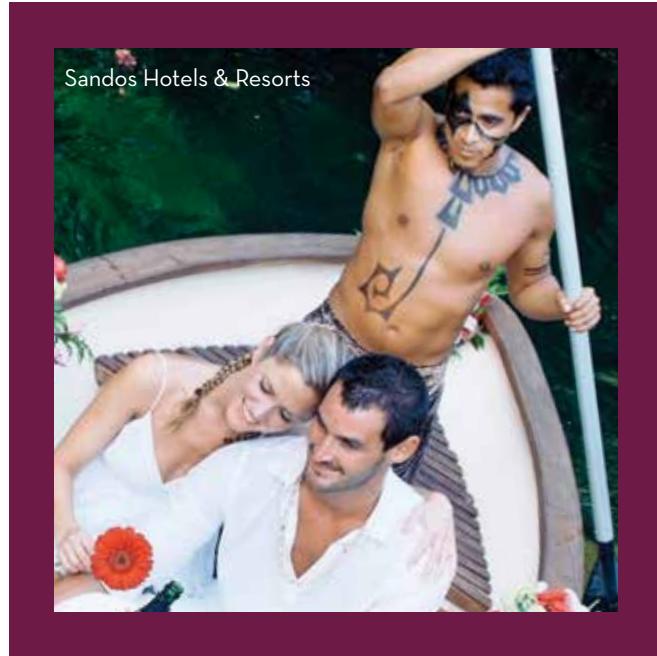
You won't have to venture far from the hotel to add a helping of Mayan customs to your wedding festivities as most resorts that dot the Yucatan Peninsula who are familiar with the wedding traditions of this enduring civilization can coordinate this ceremony, shaman and all. By wrapping the bride and groom's hands and wrists with braided vines, Mayans were one of the first societies to literally employ "tying the knot" as a part of





Merida

Iberostar Resorts



their nuptial ceremony. In the Yucatan region, you could have your ceremony officiated by a shaman in the traditional Mayan dialect, with English directions, of course. The Mayan society stretches beyond recorded history and some traditions have carried on to present day. Post-ceremony, the shaman could sacrifice an animal in honour of the newlyweds; a chicken, a goat or even a cow, to be added to the reception's feast - but perhaps, for all animal lovers out there, you might want to skip this part!

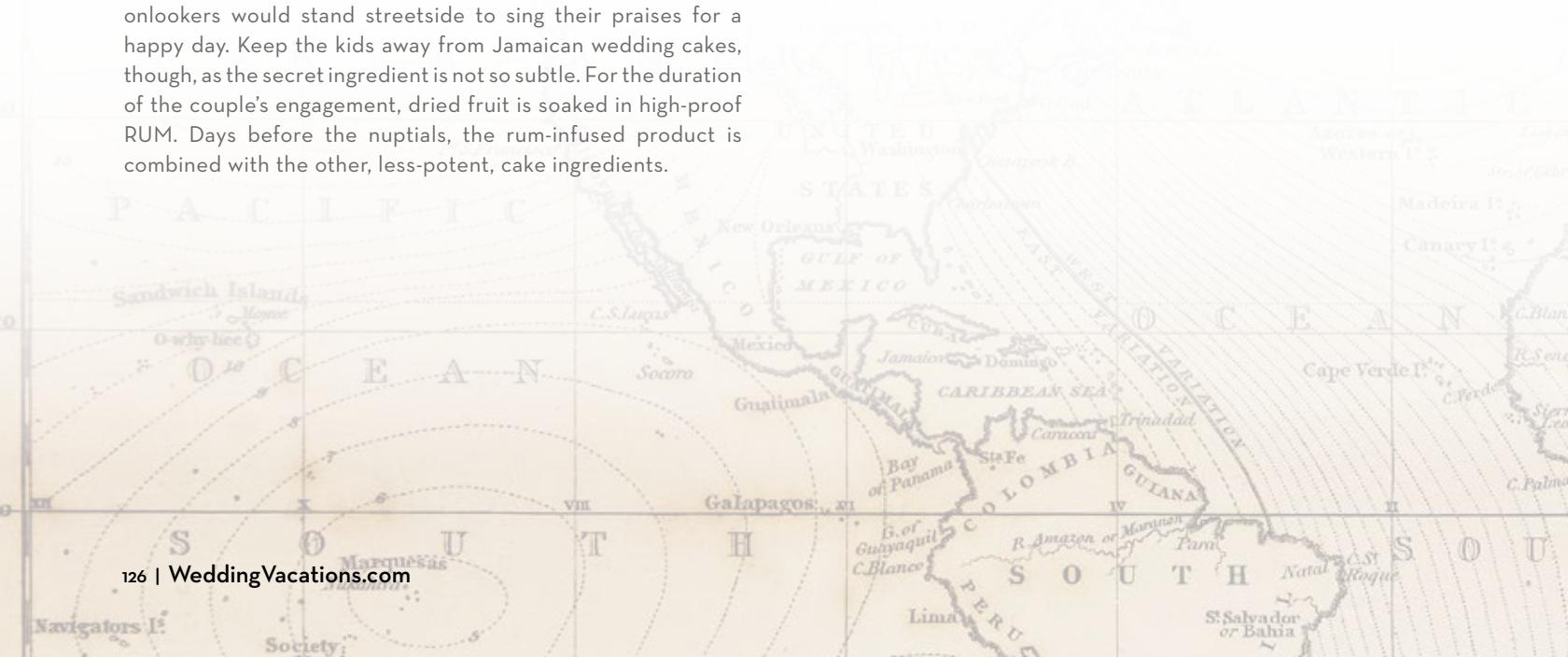
JAMAICA

A wedding in Jamaica brings out the whole community. Traditionally, the morning of the wedding would see the bride in her wedding gown parade through town to church, and onlookers would stand streetside to sing their praises for a happy day. Keep the kids away from Jamaican wedding cakes, though, as the secret ingredient is not so subtle. For the duration of the couple's engagement, dried fruit is soaked in high-proof RUM. Days before the nuptials, the rum-infused product is combined with the other, less-potent, cake ingredients.

PANAMA

A fixture of Catholic wedding ceremonies in Latin America and Spain, the groom presents the bride with 13 gold coins to be blessed by the priest. Religiously, the coins represent Christ and the 12 apostles, and symbolically, they are a literal testament to the groom's promise to always provide for his partner. For a more modern approach - and shared-accountability - the couple could pass the coins back and forth to each other.

At a Panamanian wedding reception, a "bride doll" sits at the head table. The doll might be wearing a mini-version of the bride's wedding gown. Guests are encouraged to pin charms and tokens to the bride doll's gown throughout the festivities.



Couples Resorts

Coppley



Visit Jamaica



© Visit Panama

WEDDING CEREMONIES AROUND THE WORLD

Visit Panama



HAWAII

A Hawaiian wedding ceremony commences like no other. The Kahu (wedding official) trumpets loudly into a conch shell. Not only does this bellow alert the wedding guests to the bride's impending arrival, it is also thought to convene earth, air, fire and water to this happy occasion.

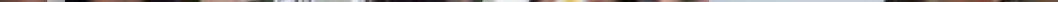
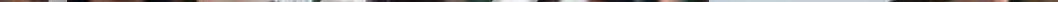
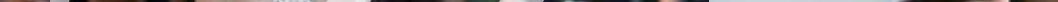
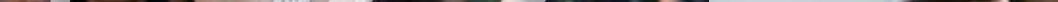
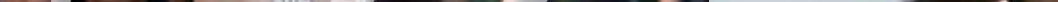
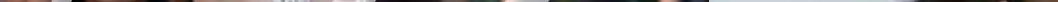
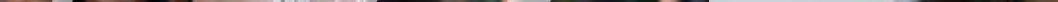
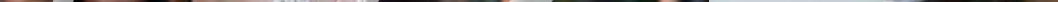
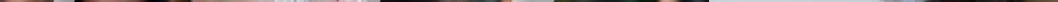
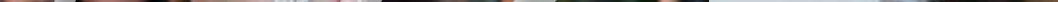
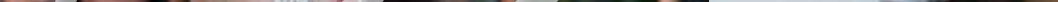
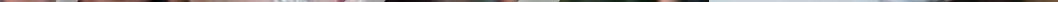
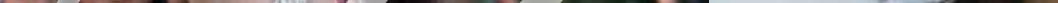
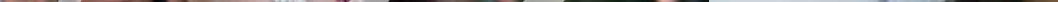
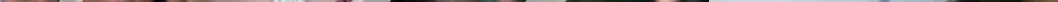
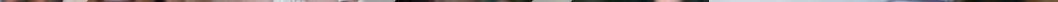
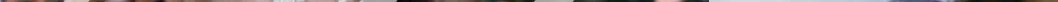
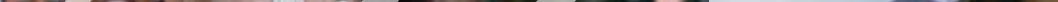
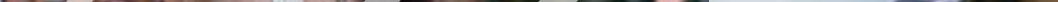
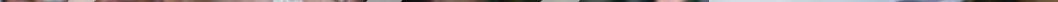
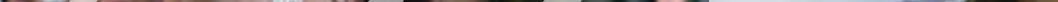
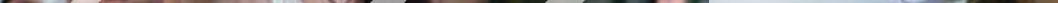
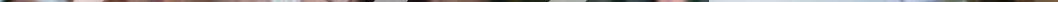
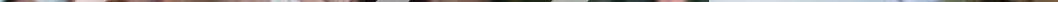
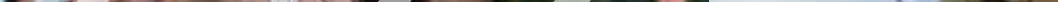
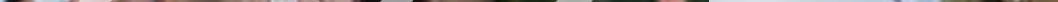
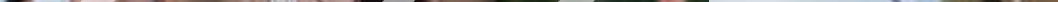
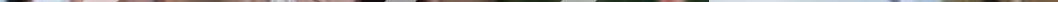
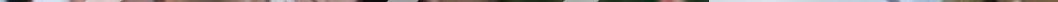
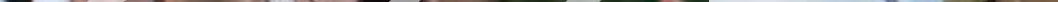
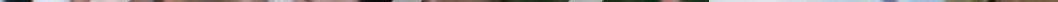
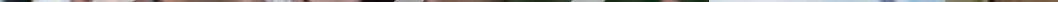
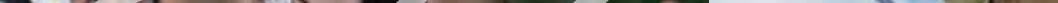
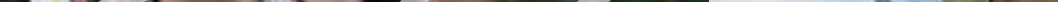
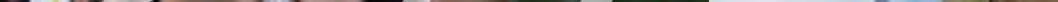
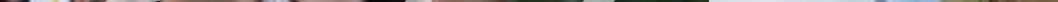
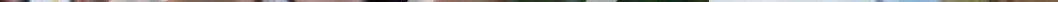
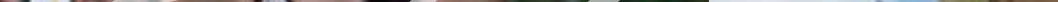
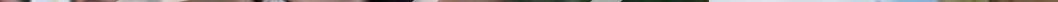
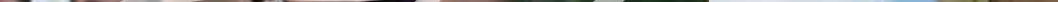
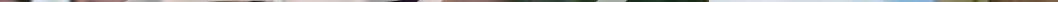
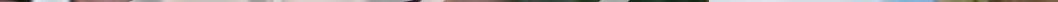
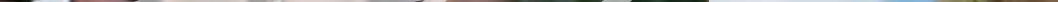
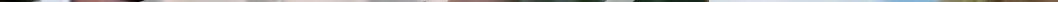
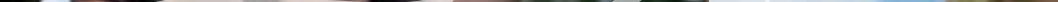
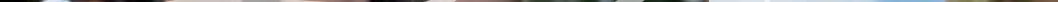
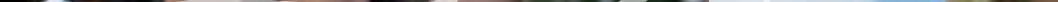
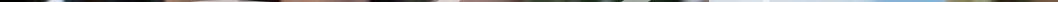
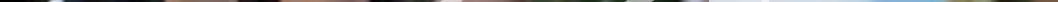
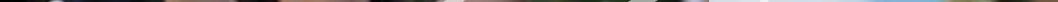
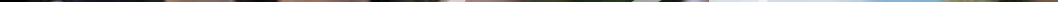
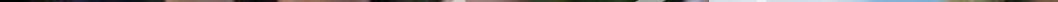
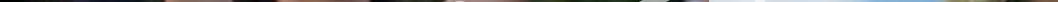
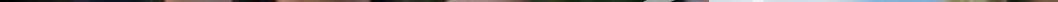
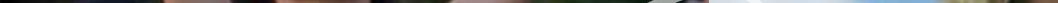
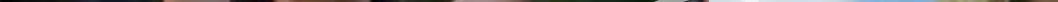
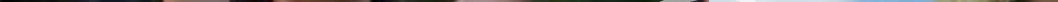
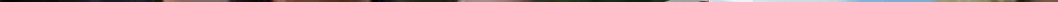
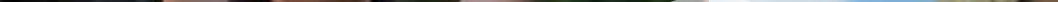
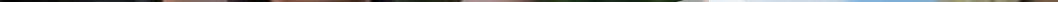
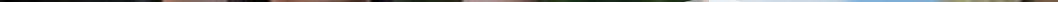
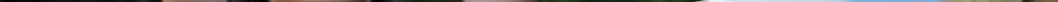
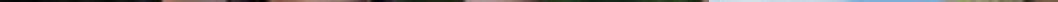
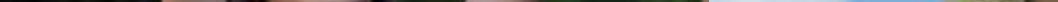
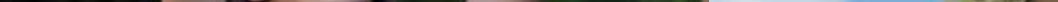
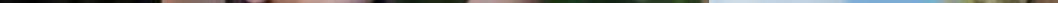
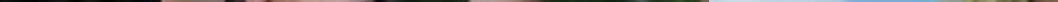
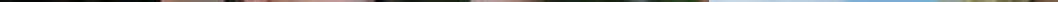
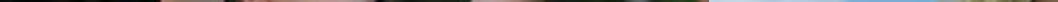
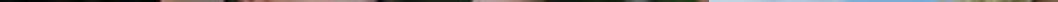
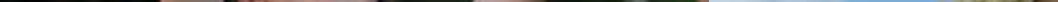
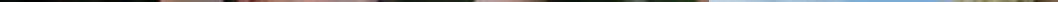
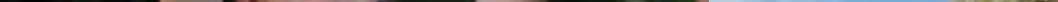
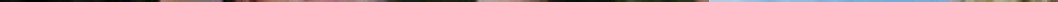
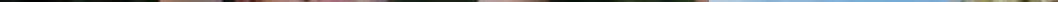
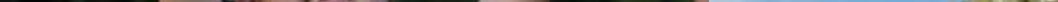
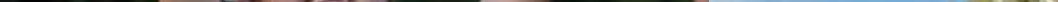
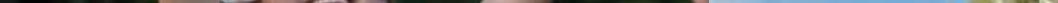
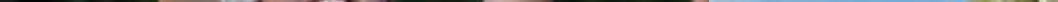
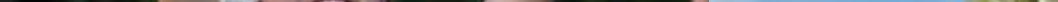
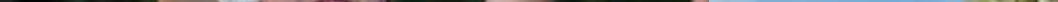
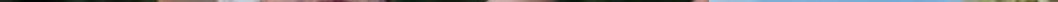
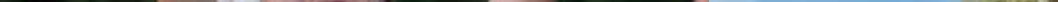
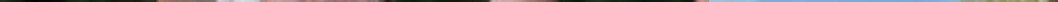
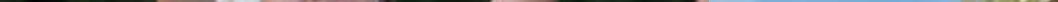
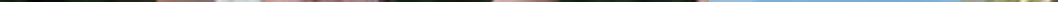
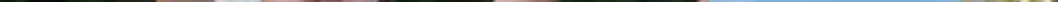
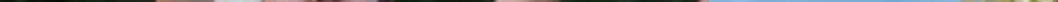
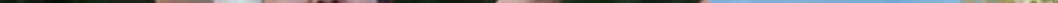
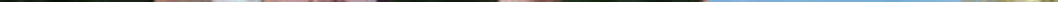
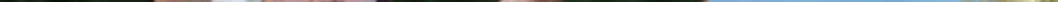
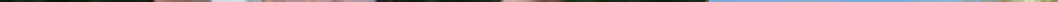
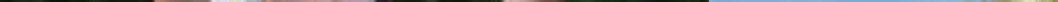
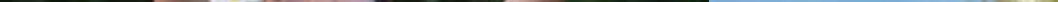
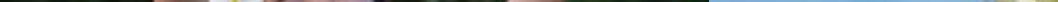
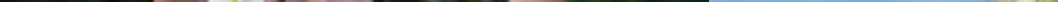
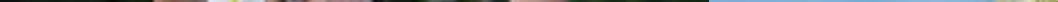
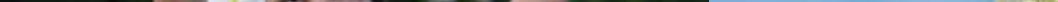
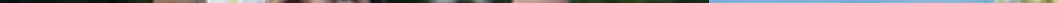
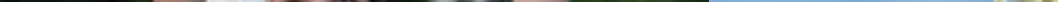
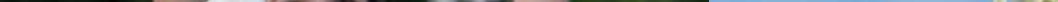
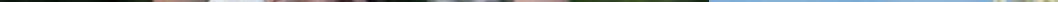
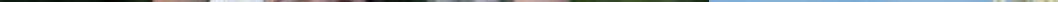
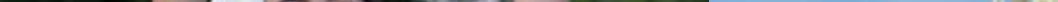
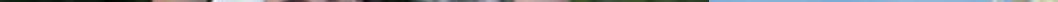
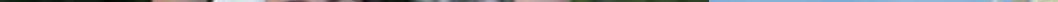
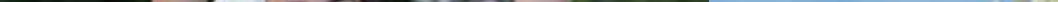
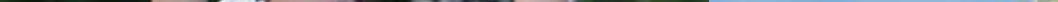
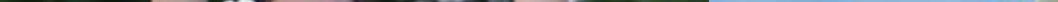
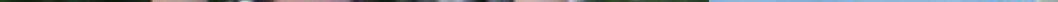
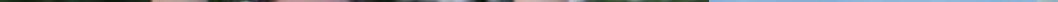
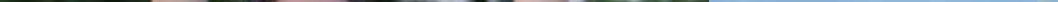
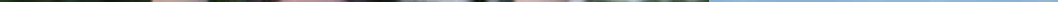
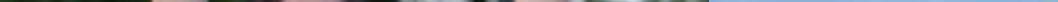
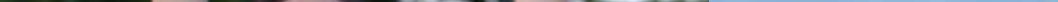
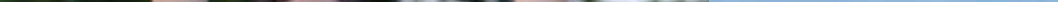
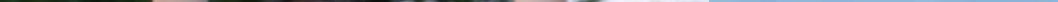
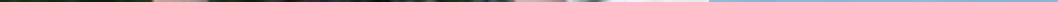
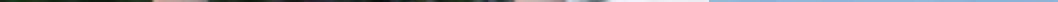
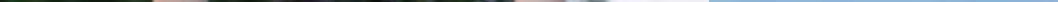
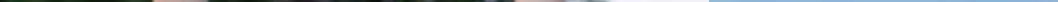
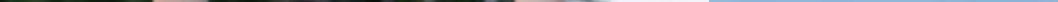
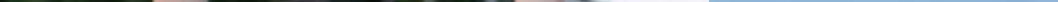
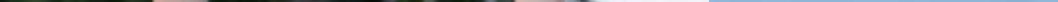
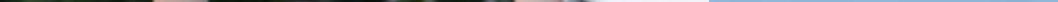
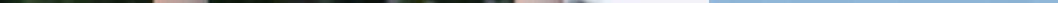
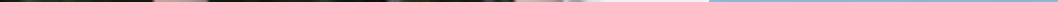
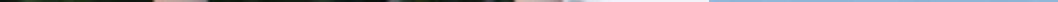
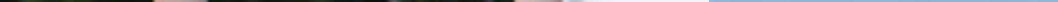
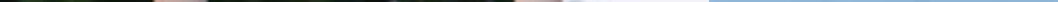
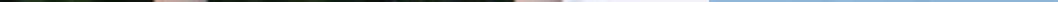
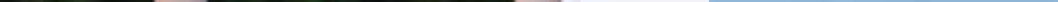
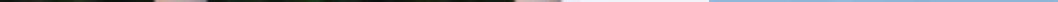
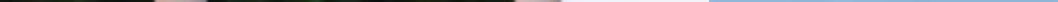
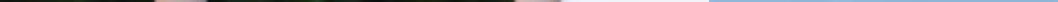
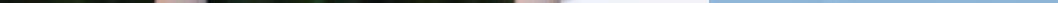
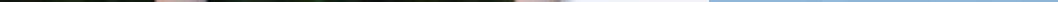
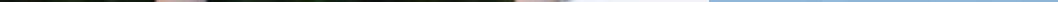
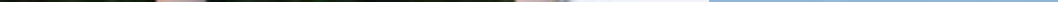
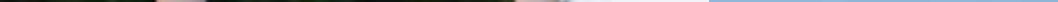
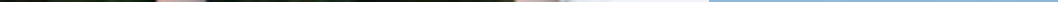
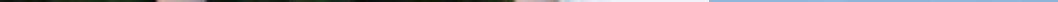
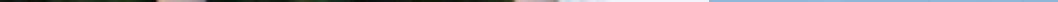
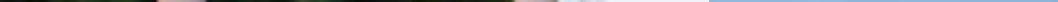
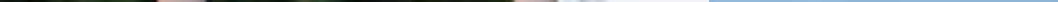
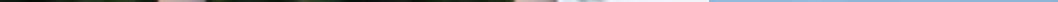
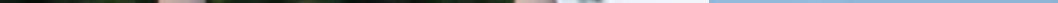
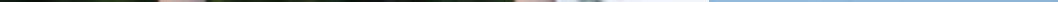
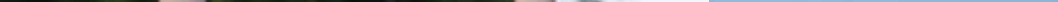
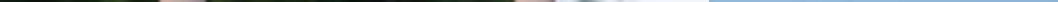
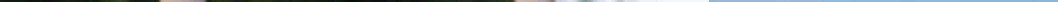
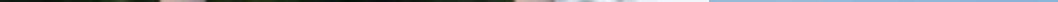
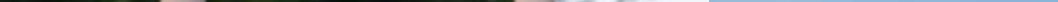
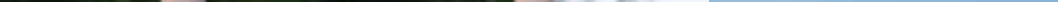
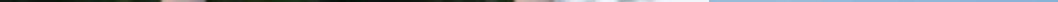
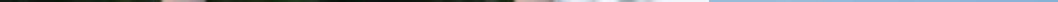
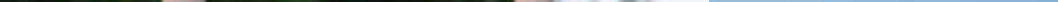
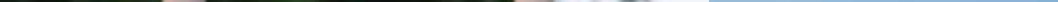
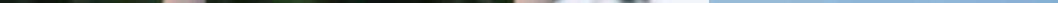
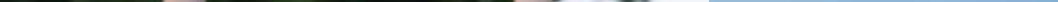
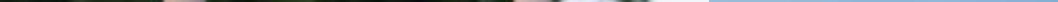
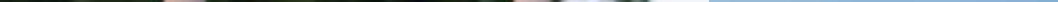
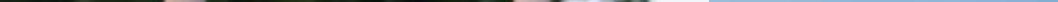
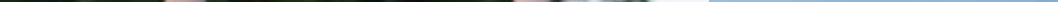
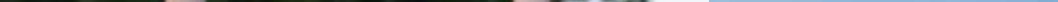
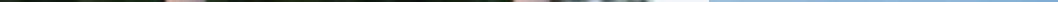
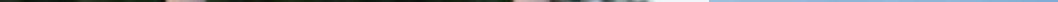
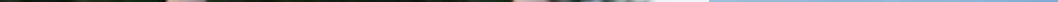
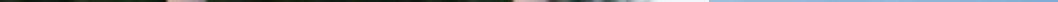
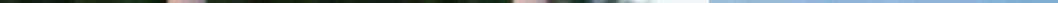
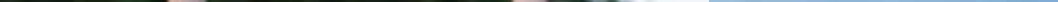
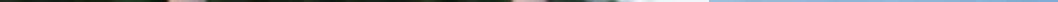
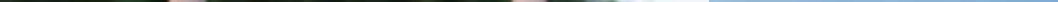
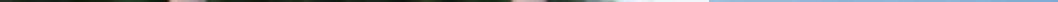
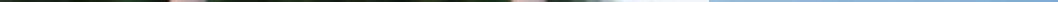
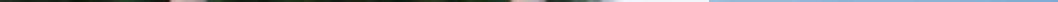
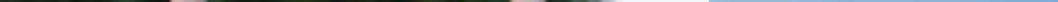
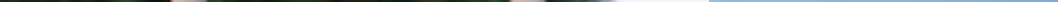
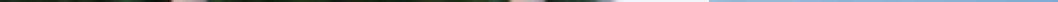
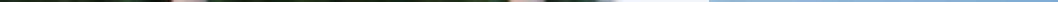
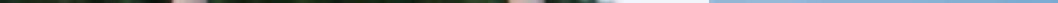
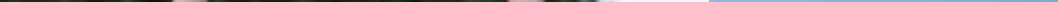
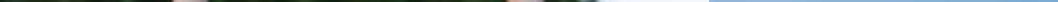
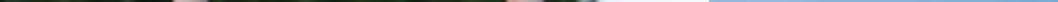
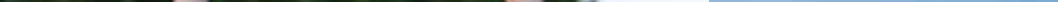
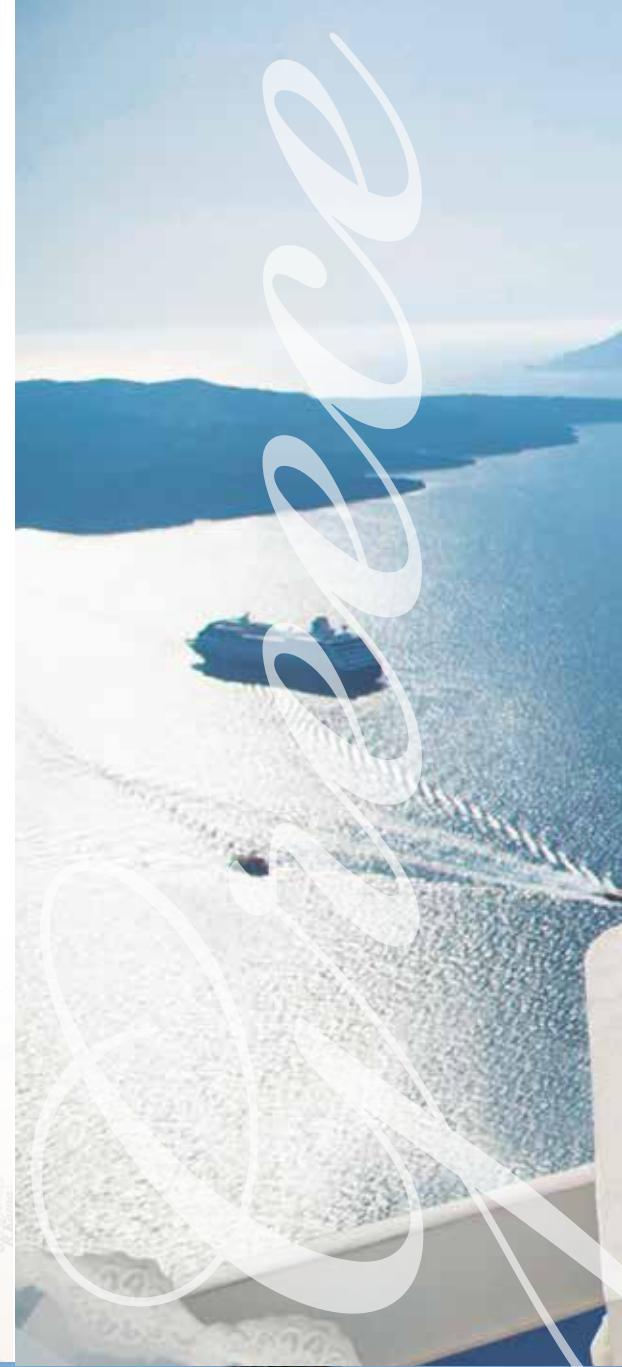
If your destination wedding takes you to Hawaii, not only will you declare your eternal vows in paradise but, with the help of your experienced destination wedding consultant, you'll also be able to incorporate Hawaii's vibrant colour palette into the ceremony. Exchanging of lei's is commonplace and brides may also incorporate Hawaii's diverse flora into her headpiece and bouquet.

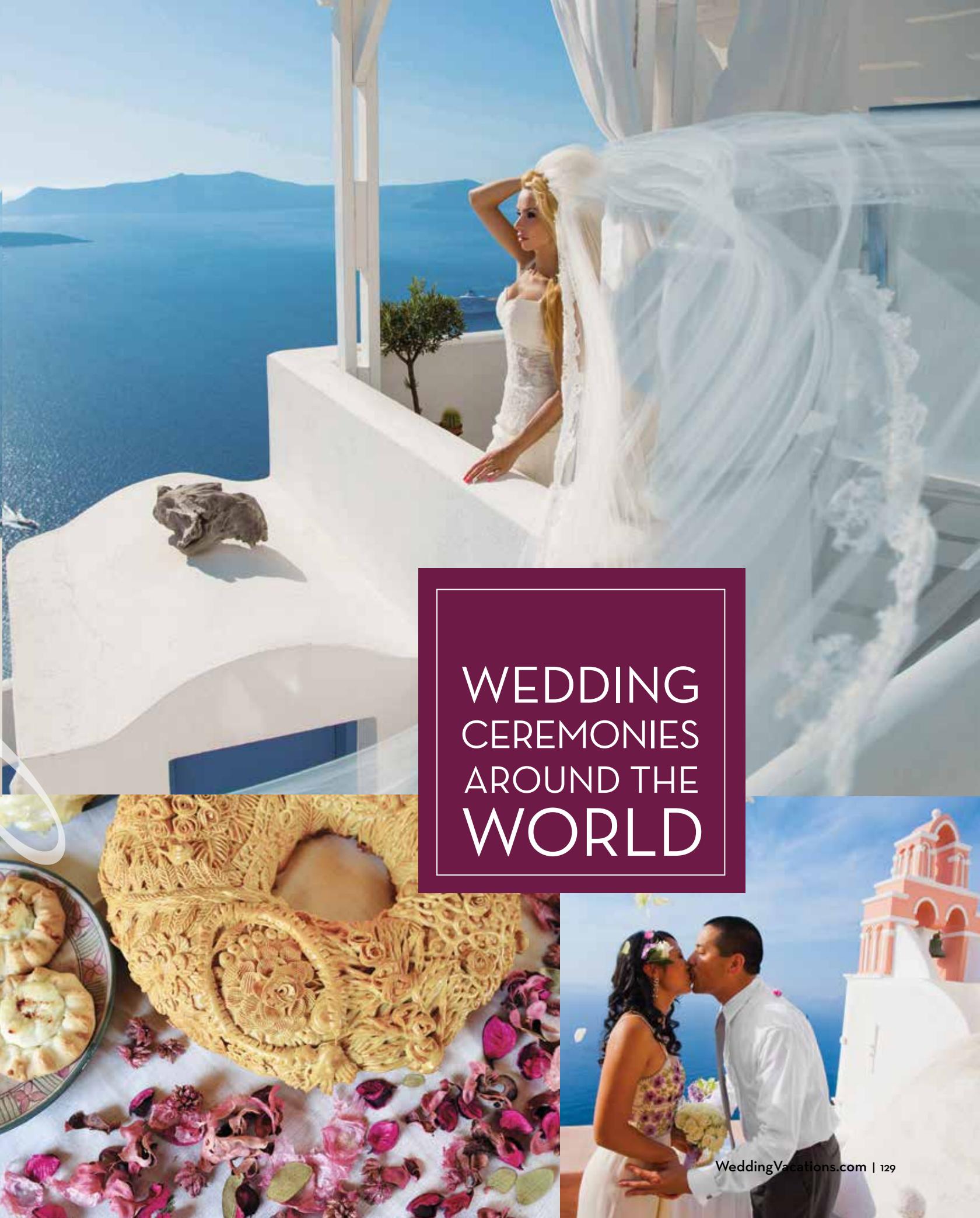
The Hawaiian version of the unity candle is the blending of sands ritual whereby the bride and groom each combine sand of different colours into one jar. The sand is swirled together symbolizing two families becoming one.

GREECE

First-timers to a Greek wedding will revel at the reception with guests numbering in the hundreds, a limitless feast of Mediterranean goodness, and non-stop raising of the elbows, linking fingers and dancing in a collective circle. However, once dinner is done and the lights go down, prepare yourself for a mass plate smashing; an act symbolizing everything from wishes for abundance for the newlyweds to new beginnings by the act of "throwing away" their old lives. Since resorts might not have the inventory to facilitate this request, you can always opt to replicate this by throwing flowers or having the father of the bride throw a single plaster plate.

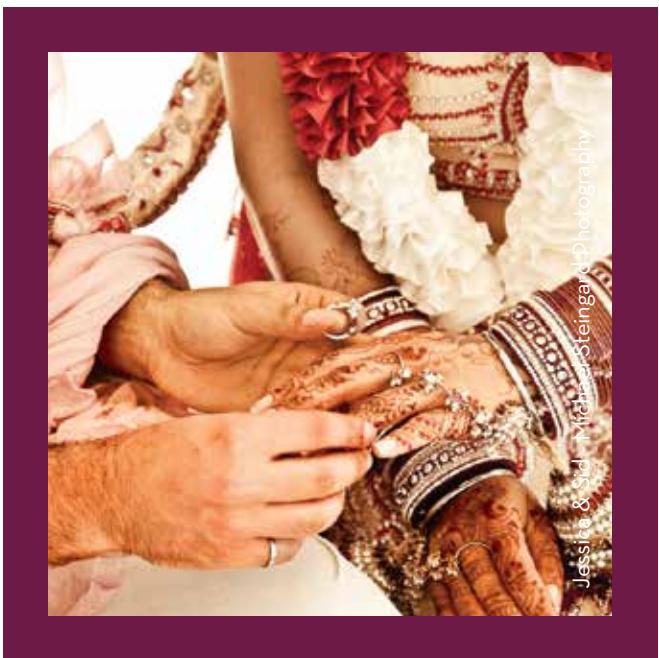
Go Greek by offering your happy returns to the newlyweds, you can declare, "Na Zisoun," which means "to live a long life."





The collage features several distinct scenes: a bride in a white gown standing on a balcony overlooking a blue sea; a close-up of a golden, rose-shaped cake; a couple kissing in front of a red bell tower; and a plate of pastries. A central dark purple box contains the text.

WEDDING CEREMONIES AROUND THE WORLD



INDIA

Sometimes lasting for days and varying from region to region, there is little that comes close to the epic grandeur that comprises the multiple stages of a Hindu wedding. Taking place the evening before the wedding, the *mehndi* is a celebration for the women of the wedding. A *mehndi* artist covers the bride and other women in the family with elaborate henna art applied to the hands and feet. *Pithi* is another pre-wedding, body-covering ceremony whereby participants spread a chickpea and turmeric paste over the bride's skin, which is intended to clear up imperfections and give her a natural glow.

The groom's moment to shine comes with his choreographed entrance to the wedding ceremony. Alongside his family and friends, he may make his appearance riding in on horseback or perhaps even atop a revving motorcycle lowered from the rafters of the hall – but you might want to double-check with your wedding consultant first about this elaborate stunt!

Whether your wedding has the pomp and revelry of a Royal wedding or understated, casual intimacy, the personal and cultural traditions that bind your special day are an unforgettable way to celebrate the indefinable love you share with your partner.

For more inspiration on incorporating local customs and traditions into your destination wedding visit weddingvacations.com.



Vivaa

WEDDING
CEREMONIES
AROUND THE
WORLD



A WORLD OF ROMANTIC DISCOVERY

When you're in love, paradise is everywhere you go together. However, a celebration of your commitment in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo brings a whole new meaning to your union. Step into a wonderful world filled with beautiful sights and attractions all set against the breathtaking splendour of the Pacific Ocean.

Marriage is a big step in many couples' lives, and for this unforgettable occasion, there is no better option than a blissful wedding nestled within the abundant natural beauty, pristine beaches and lush scenery of Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo's Pacific coast.

Ever dreamed of seaside nuptials on a beach to the soundtrack of the waves backed by a beautiful sunset? Dream no more and indulge in a stunning reception overlooking the beautiful beaches of Zihuatanejo, or an elegant affair in one of Ixtapa's magnificent oceanfront resorts.

Blending a perfect balance of romance and glamour with simple serenity, Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo is, for many people, a place to rest and relax, and get inspired.

There are a number of must-see natural and cultural attractions in the region, ideal for honeymoon travel and post-wedding exploration, while the wonderful weather makes it the perfect destination to enjoy special moments with your sweetheart, and fall head over heels in paradise.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



REAL WEDDINGS JACINTHE & GUILLAUME

It was Jacinthe's beauty and sparkling eyes that would distract Guillaume from finishing his meal. Their romance is a delicious one, having met in the cozy confines of a restaurant through a mutual friend.

His kindness and genuine nature is what hooked Jacinthe in, "He's an incredibly beautiful soul - inside and out."

Guillaume and Jacinthe would later return to the same restaurant where they first met. This time, however, he would propose to his sweetheart.

"My idea was to ask the waiter to place the ring in the meal under a serving dish. Unfortunately, the restaurant didn't have a serving dish, so I had to improvise while she was in the washroom."

Dunking the ring in her glass of wine, Guillaume waited in anticipation for Jacinthe to finish her glass, even urging her to take some sips. "She asked me to finish her glass of wine because she was not feeling well!" Guillaume remembers, "So I finished her glass of wine and gave her a kiss with the ring in my mouth." After a sultry liplock across the table, Jacinthe was immediately seized with excitement when she could feel the princess cut diamond ring in his mouth. "I didn't have time to make my proposal, she just said 'yes' and kissed me again," Guillaume laughs.



Resort photographer at Grand Bahia Principe - Royal Golden

Beach and bubbly

In a November wedding accented in greys and plums, Jacinthe, Guillaume and 30 of their closest friends and family gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic to celebrate their seaside nuptials with a quaint ceremony along the shores of the Caribbean.

Dressed in an frothy gown, and carrying a bouquet of calla lilies, Jacinthe made her way down the sandy path to her beloved. These lovebirds couldn't take their eyes off each other, recounting the walk down the aisle as the most memorable of their big day.

"That moment of anticipation walking towards him, with that breathtaking view behind him; it was an unbelievable feeling," recounts Jacinthe with a smile.

Getting married in Punta Cana was a great option for Jacinthe and Guillaume. With family across Europe, this sunny solution offered a common tropical point for relatives to partake in the celebrations, and doubled as a great vacation destination, too.

"We loved getting married in the Dominican Republic. The simplicity of the ceremony and the tropical ambience reflected our tastes perfectly," both agreed unanimously. "It was a surreal feeling to celebrate this huge moment in our lives with everyone we care about most... and in paradise!"

The joyous couple and their wedding party whiled away the evening sipping bubbly – their signature wedding drink – and danced their way into the night to spicy Latin beats on a beach party reception under the stars.



Resort photographer at Grand Bahia Principe - Royal Golden



REAL WEDDINGS
JACINTHE & GUILLAUME



Tropica

REAL WEDDINGS
JACINTHE & GUILLAUME





GET THEIR LOOK

Jacinthe's gown: Organza, Mori Lee.

Jacinthe's shoes: Michael Kors sandals.

Guillaume's outfit: Classic Armani suit.

Bridesmaids' dresses: Plum-coloured, floor-length gowns.

Groomsmen's attire: Grey pants, white shirt and plum-coloured tie.

Photographer: From the resort.



OLD | NEW | BORROWED | BLUE

What was old? Bracelet.

What was new? Wedding dress.

What was borrowed? Earrings.

What was blue? Garter.



Resort photographer at Grand Bahia Principe - Royal Golden

JACINTHE & GUILLAUME'S TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS

- Do not be afraid of marriage, this is the best proof of love you can perform.
- Trust the wedding consultant; they know what they're doing.

To start planning a picture-perfect celebration like this, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 

*Destin
Florida*



REAL WEDDINGS
JACINTHE & GUILLAUME



MAKE YOUR
WEDDING A
**DELICIOUS
AFFAIR AT
KARISMA**



Gourmet Inclusive

wedding events

BY KARISMA

Karisma Hotels & Resorts presents a sumptuous assortment of wedding packages to suit every palate. Choose from the Memorable Moments Signature Wedding Collection™, each with its own distinct personality to make your day even more special.

The Karisma Gourmet Inclusive® experience welcomes you to a world of personalized service in some of the most sought-after wedding destinations in Mexico. As you plan your big day, surrounded by Karisma's signature luxury and opulence, you and your guests will be greeted with warm smiles, exceptional service and deluxe amenities. Tantalize the taste buds of your guests and break free from the monotony of run-of-the-mill vacation pastimes with cooking classes, as well as wine, tequila and mezcal tastings!

Whether your event is an elegant and understated affair or a grand beach party, your Gourmet Inclusive® Wedding Event by Karisma will be a magnificent destination wedding celebration everyone will remember long after the tans have faded.

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For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

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Cadina



AWAKEN YOUR APPETITE

By Natasha Rajamani

Across all walks of life, sumptuous fare has been the force that heralds groups, families and friends to bond over a deliciously prepared meal. To that end, there's nowhere that food takes centre stage more masterfully than at a wedding. Known for its delicious produce, fresh abundance of seafood and its variety of cuisines enjoyed all over the world over, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America are taking the spotlight as major culinary hubs. Resorts in these destinations have also upped the ante when it comes to catering an array of dishes that appeal to the broad spectrum of local and international diners feasting at their establishments. Serving up innovative flavour combinations and traditional comfort favourites, these establishments are making their mark on the culinary map.



With exotic oceanfront dining and romantic meals under the stars, there is no shortage of ways to indulge at CHIC Punta Cana by Royalton. From steak to sushi and everything in between, the renowned chefs at CHIC specialize in succulent cuisine to delight every palate. If you're in for an epicuriously romantic meal, book a table for two at CX - Culinary Experience, and enjoy private dining at the chef's table where you'll see an artful display of masterful mix of edible creations prepared before your very eyes. Now that's a feast for the senses!

DESTINATION
CHIC
PUNTA CANA





KARISMA TASTINGS

Taking resort dining to savoury heights, Mexico's Karisma Hotels introduces guests to haute cuisine, incorporating some of the most innovative techniques, unique flavours and natural ingredients. Gourmet Inclusive® by Karisma is the hotel chain's culinary philosophy that sets the tone for world-class service, provided by friendly, professional staff, and gourmet cuisine, prepared by critically-acclaimed chefs. This year, Karisma pays homage to Canada, celebrating AAA Canadian beef. Each month, a different chef personality will create sumptuous dishes featuring this Canadian specialty. To complete your dining experience, each lip-smacking meal is also accompanied by a perfect wine pairing.



Brunch

DESTINATION
SHERATON
BUGANVILIAS



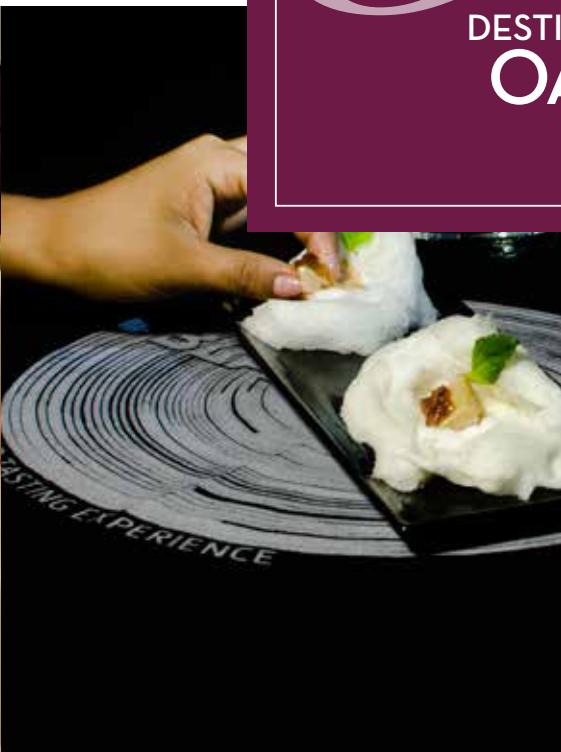
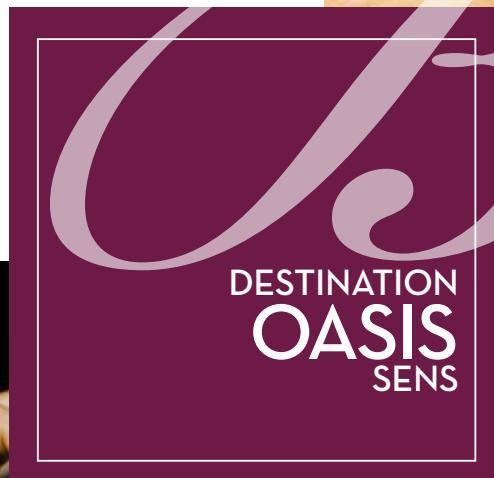
SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SHERATON BUGANVILIAS

Early Sunday morning, long before the sun rises over the Sierra Madre mountain range, the culinary staff at the Sheraton Buganvillas are busy in the kitchen preparing the weekly Champagne Sunday Brunch, a staple at the hotel for 10 years. Guests and local families from the bay area flock to La Villita Restaurant. From fresh crêpes made in front of your eyes, to tacos that can be packed with a wide selection of ingredients, the Sunday Brunch serves up an array of delectable food to please any and every palate. Spectacular views of the ocean and the lush vegetation surrounding the restaurant complete the scene for a picture-perfect meal on a relaxing Sunday afternoon.

BENAZUZA AT OASIS SENS

For the culinary connoisseurs, or those who just want to try something different, Benazuza at Oasis Sens serves course after course of innovative culinary inventions known as “molecular gastronomy.” Diners at Benazuza can look forward to a fusion of science and technology with a healthy helping of mouth-watering goodness. The emphasis of the cuisine is to pare each ingredient down to its essential flavour profile. The result is an experience that will leave the taste buds tingling and the mind reeling. With a focus on local Mexican ingredients plated in European presentation, make sure to come hungry and enjoy a set of delights from strawberries with tequila marmalade to potato foam with beans and truffle.

While you're fine dining on delectable culinary creations in elegant and sophisticated ambiance, don't forget to take advantage of the local fare found in your destination. Consider incorporating local fruit into your celebration -- quench your thirst with refreshing coconut water or add juicy melons, mangoes or papaya as a sweet accompaniment to your wedding cake. After all, a well-fed crowd is a happy crowd. 





mazura

These staple ingredients have found

a home in kitchens all over the world.



Indigenous to the Andes region, potatoes are an integral staple to much of the world's food supply. With about 5,000 varieties worldwide, potatoes make up the world's fourth-largest food crop, following maize, wheat and rice.



This aromatic flavour is found in the seeds of the fruit derived from the vanilla orchid. Originating in Mexico, vanilla is most commonly used in desserts such as cakes, custards, and of course, ice cream. Yum!



Actually a fruit, avocados are a creamy and luxurious addition to snacks and meals. Native to Mexico and Central America, enjoy them sliced, diced, mashed or blended with a sunny spritz of lemon or lime.



Once having ceremonial purposes and used as currency in ancient Mesoamerica, chocolate has been enjoyed for over three millennia - first as a bitter drink and today as a sweet treat.



A DREAM COME TRUE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As 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 venues make planning your wedding in the Dominican Republic a breeze.

Add some excitement to your wedding vacation or on your honeymoon with an abundance of adrenaline-surging activities, from adventure sports like river rafting, canoeing, hiking, and horseback riding, to hang-ten thrills like surfing, kitesurfing, amazing snorkelling and scuba diving. For those who groove to a slower rhythm, there is plenty of sightseeing, lounging and exploring to do. 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.

For couples who dream of unique and fairytale engagements, weddings and honeymoons, the Dominican Republic is a slice of paradise that blends a tropical ambience with old-world charm and romance. No wonder this tropical oasis is rapidly becoming the top Caribbean choice for weddings.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



THEY FELL IN LOVE AND THE REST IS “THEIR STORY”

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

Congratulations to May and Jeff on winning our Destination Weddings Photo Contest from Volume 4 Issue 2.

Third time's the charm

Three different encounters would eventually bring May and Jeff together in holy matrimony. While they were in college, May was intrigued by Jeff's charm and shy demeanour and confided in a mutual friend, Fabrice, that she was interested. Fabrice made the initial introductions but nothing happened. Afterwards, Fabrice slyly told Jeff and May separately that each was interested in the other, even though it was a total fib, which eventually led May to give Jeff her number. They chatted a few times, but again, nothing came of it. It was only after Jeff made repeated visits to the store where May worked and they went out for their first date after her shift, that the rest, as the agreed, is “their story.”

String the ring

On New Year's Eve 2009, Jeff, May and her girlfriends, all made their resolutions. Jeff decided that 2010 would be the year he was going to pop the “big question.”

Jet-lagged after a business trip, Jeff gently woke up May in the middle of the night. Inspired by the movie *Stepmom* - a movie May liked - Jeff gave her the end of a piece of thread to hold, and got up to walk to the light switch at the other end of the bed. Once he turned on the lights, he let the beautiful and simple solitaire ring slid-down the thread and into May's hands.

“I immediately said ‘yes!’” she laughs.



Sascha Gluck, Cancun Photos.

REAL WEDDINGS
MAY & JEFF



REAL WEDDINGS MAY & JEFF

Unexpected delights

Toes deep in soft white sand, backgrounded by the glittering turquoise waters of the Caribbean, May and Jeff exchanged vows in the presence of 82 of their loved ones at the Now Sapphire Beach in Riviera Maya. Featuring an elegant, off-white colour scheme accented by purple and lots of natural greenery, the bride walked down the aisle to an Amy Winehouse tune performed by a close friend.

"We were surrounded by the one's we love most," May reminisces. "I loved the personal touches of our wedding: Jeff's friend Ralph performed the ceremony; my grandfather, Gego, gave a heartfelt speech; and my friend Karima sang a special song during the ceremony."

Jeff recounts how special it was to share the experience with his two children, Viviana and Rafael. "It was a unique moment for me to share this day with my children. Rafael and I even dressed the same."

With a reception at the Now Sapphire terrace, guests danced late into the night to a pre-made music list, curated by the couple. May and Jeff danced their way into marital bliss to Daan Junior's Avè'w.

May and Jeff concluded by sharing their memories of what they loved most about their destination wedding getaway in the sun. "The entire experience was fun and easy. I especially enjoyed the days preceding and after the wedding; catching up with friends and family, doing activities together, having long leisurely meals and drinks." When asked what they're most unexpected memory was, May quipped, "I never thought I'd love the Trash the Dress photo shoot we did. It ended up being so much fun!"

The couple sought out more romance with a honeymoon in Antigua.

As the winners of the Destination Weddings Photo Contest, May and Jeff will be treated to a romantic getaway at the Royalton Riviera Cancun in Mexico.

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER





Sascha Gluck, Cancun Photos.

A photograph of a man and a woman in wedding attire. The man, on the left, is seen from the side, wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a white shirt and dark trousers. He has a boutonniere on his lapel and is wearing sunglasses. The woman, on the right, is looking up at him with her head tilted back, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder dress. They are standing against a clear blue sky.

SOMETHING OLD,
SOMETHING NEW,
SOMETHING BORROWED,
SOMETHING BLUE!

REAL WEDDINGS MAY & JEFF

GET THEIR LOOK

May's dress: J. Crew Bridal.

May's shoes: None! Just pearl-bead foot jewellery that was gifted by his sister-in-law.

Jeff's outfit: Club Monaco suit.

Photographer: Sascha Gluck, Cancun Photos.

Hair: Now Sapphire Resort beauty salon.

Makeup: Karima Kinlock.

OLD | NEW | BORROWED | BLUE

What was old? "My grandfather who gave the speech," May jokes.

What was new? Necklace and earrings given by her girlfriends.

What was borrowed? Nothing.

What was blue? Blue good-luck charm.



Sascha Gluck, Cancun Photos.



KEEP IT SIMPLE
AND DON'T STRESS
ABOUT THE DETAILS



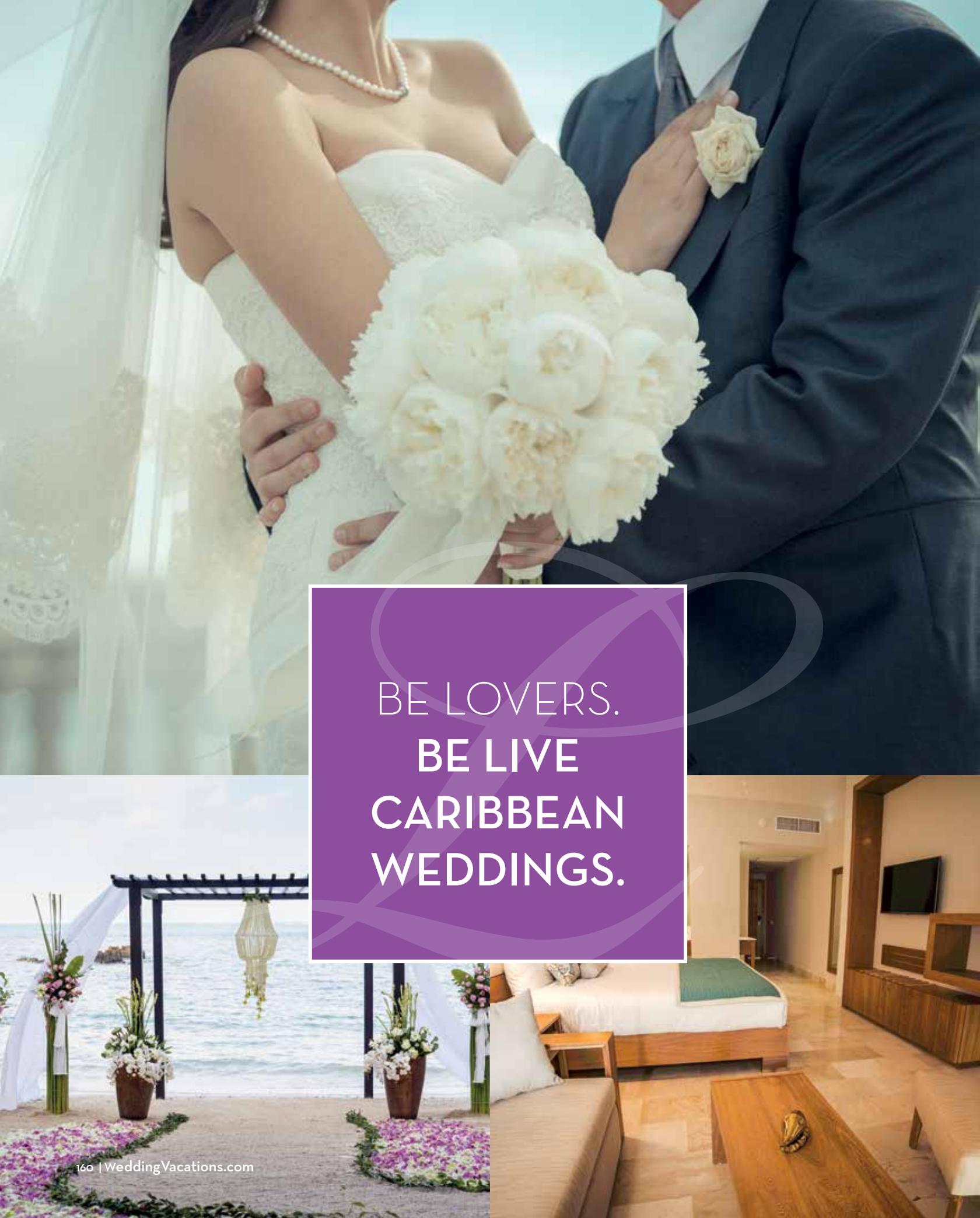
MAY & JEFF'S
TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS

- Keep it simple, and don't stress about the details, just enjoy your family and friends.
- Get a wedding planner so you can enjoy the process and the day, without any stress! 

REAL WEDDINGS
MAY & JEFF



Sign up to submit your destination wedding photos in the next WeddingVacations.com Photo Contest on the WeddingVacations.com Facebook page for your chance to win a honeymoon in paradise. For more details, flip to page 224.



BE LOVERS.
BE LIVE
CARIBBEAN
WEDDINGS.



If you wish to celebrate your wedding day in an exotic locale with a comprehensive wedding service, Be Live Hotels in Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, La Romana, and the Be Live Collection Marien in Puerto Plata, offer exceptional facilities and amenities for the wedding of your dreams.

- For the perfect combination of luxurious details with a laid-back vibe, Be Live Collection Punta Cana is the perfect choice, and is located mere metres from Cabeza De Toro Beach, one of the most picturesque beaches in the Dominican Republic.
- For a wedding day that is unique, extraordinary and unforgettable, the Be Live Experience Hamaca is dedicated to one-of-a-kind celebrations embellished with plenty of character and style.
- Tropical palm trees and the Caribbean Sea meet in perfect harmony at Be Live Collection Canoa in La Romana where the setting, the music, the menus, and the bridal suite will exceed all your expectations for a perfect day.
- Indulge in some R&R at Be Live Collection Marien, where pools, gardens, terraces and the marvelous Costa Dorada Beach make for the ideal surroundings for a celebration of your romantic union.

All four deluxe properties offer an array of options to help you create a custom-designed wedding that reflects your taste and style. Indulge in additional wedding packages and spa programs to get you ready for the big day, and enjoy complimentary wedding packages when you book a minimum of three rooms for seven nights or more.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

ENTER TO WIN A
ROMANTIC GETAWAY!





Win a seven-day stay for you and your sweetheart at the adults-only, Cuban gem, Royalton Hicacos Resort & Spa, courtesy of Royalton Luxury Resorts.

Discover All-In Luxury™ when you stay at one of the finest adults-only, all inclusive resorts in the world as described by TripAdvisor® reviewers. Royalton Hicacos in Varadero, Cuba, welcomes you with a romantic atmosphere to enrich and awaken all your senses, rejuvenate your body, mind and soul, and indulge in one-of-a-kind luxuries. Peaceful and rich with activities, this resort is the ideal place for guests to enjoy a romantic vacation or to celebrate weddings, honeymoons and anniversaries. Our modern All-In Luxury™ concept offers elegantly-designed accommodations, exceptional 24-hour service, and decadent culinary experiences. Retreat to sumptuous hotel rooms inspired by the architecture of 1920s fisherman houses, and stroll hand-in-hand through the stunning grounds, which are surrounded by sparkling ponds. Offering the ideal setting for romance on a luxury property, a stay at this five-star resort is an experience you will never forget!

Enter at [WeddingVacations.com](#)!

For more details, and full terms and conditions, please visit [weddingvacations.com](#), and click on the "Win a romantic getaway" banner.

Draws for two seven-night vacations will take place in a six-month period. This promotion expires December 15, 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. For full terms and conditions, please visit [weddingvacations.com](#). This promotion is limited and can be withdrawn at any time without notice.



CURACAO





A FUSION OF OLD AND NEW DRIZZLED **WITH “BORROWED AND BLUE”**

Fusing laidback Caribbean vibes with European flair, the island of Curaçao is one of the most coveted wedding destinations in the world. Its Spanish, Dutch, British, French and African influences are evident everywhere – from the cityscape of brilliantly-coloured building facades to the impressive architecture of the many UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Of course, the island is also renowned as a romantic private paradise where seemingly endless stretches of sandy beaches and sparkling waters set the perfect scene for barefoot nuptials at sunset or memorable post-wedding photo ops. There are also several breathtaking churches and dazzlingly modern facilities available for those looking for a more traditional affair.

Luckily, for both couples and their guests, the dream doesn't end once the vows have been exchanged. The list of attractions in Curaçao is limitless – from exotic coral reefs, beautiful plants and captivating wildlife, to the numerous local museums and exciting cultural events.

With the addition of the fine details, Curaçao is a veritable treasure trove of romantic experiences that can make any big day a dream come true.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



Bugatti

HERE COMES THE GROOM

When it comes to menswear, grooms have a lot of options in terms of colour, material and the cut of their suiting. For some, the classic black tux might seem a bit too stuffy for a beach wedding in a tropical climate! For grooms with discerning tastes, Korry's Clothiers for Gentlemen houses an impressive collection of designer and private label goods, all personally selected by store owner, president and resident buyer, Mr. Saul Korman.

"This season is all about shades of blue," says Korman. "A ceremony in a tropical destination is the ideal environment for lighter colours and airy fabrics. From classic navy to bold light blue, and even shades of grey and brown – all of these colours evoke summer in its calm palette." Korman advises grooms to look for styles in understated patterning, a slim but comfortable cut, and fine fabrics to emphasize a carefree look.

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light-colored striped shirt, and a dark tie with white polka dots. He is wearing dark sunglasses and has his right hand near his face, resting his chin on his hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with stone walls.

Bugatti

BLUE

a classic always on trend



BOLD AND BLUE

Like all neutrals, blue is a classic always on trend. Mix and match different shades for a trendier look, or colours for a more casual look. This could also be a unique way to pick up on some of the accent colours of the decor. If you decide to pair together different colours from different brands, the cut of the pieces should be at the forefront of the decision. "Different brands will utilize different fabrics and patterns, and that's what makes the clothing unique to that brand," explains Korman, "For example, if you go with a narrow trouser, make sure your blazer reflects and complements the proportions. When done well, mixing and matching colours and styles can look incredibly put-together."

Coppley





Coppley



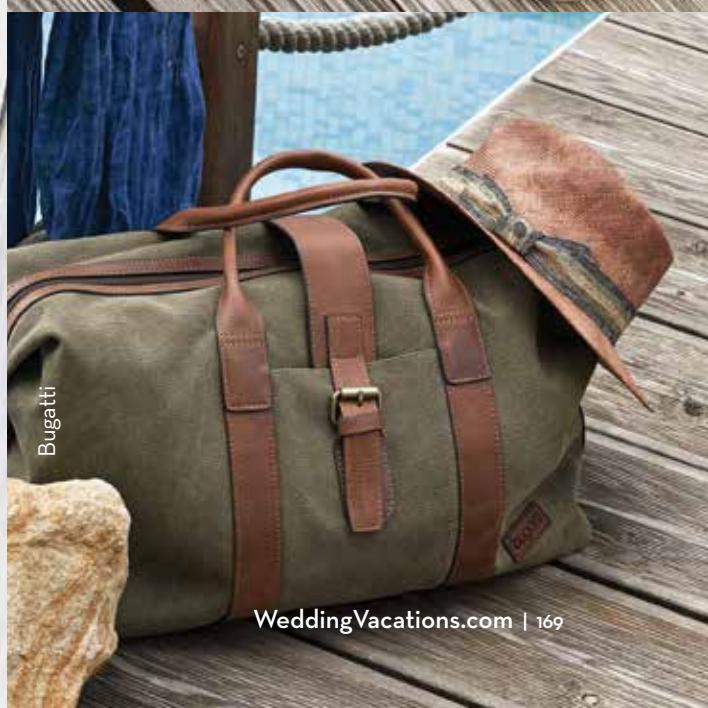
Bugatti

A “BLUE” TIE AFFAIR

For most grooms, a classic go-to is the monochromatic suit. For a more modern take on the traditional black tuxedo, opt for a navy suit instead. Paired with a navy tie in an interesting pattern or luxurious fabric, the end result can lend itself well to a ceremony by the water. Play on the nautical theme even further by pairing your suit with leather or canvas boat shoes or a pocket square in a fun pattern. For the dinner or rehearsal, suiting can be casual. Korman explains, “New suits in a ‘washed’ look present casual chic at its best.”



Coppley



Bugatti



Hugo Boss

SEE THE LIGHT

Honeymooning is about a relaxed look, but that doesn't mean it has to be all flip-flops and shorts. When it comes to honeymooning in a warm locale, lighter fabrics are paramount and most labels have options specifically tailored for these climates. Look for suits made of a lightweight wool or linen. Pieces in beiges and greys with artful details, including silk satin covered buttons, trimming along the lapel, welt pockets and darting all allow for the wearer to let their personality shine through.

a natural style



Bugatti

AN ODE TO OUTWEAR

"A lightweight jacket in a neutral colour is a staple in many of our clients' closets," says Korman. A transitional piece from day to evening, a jacket in a breezy fabric goes the extra mile in style and utility. "Many outerwear options these days marry a perfect blend of functionality and trendiness, with pockets for phones, head phones, change and cards; and zippered slits for extra ventilation."

SEIZE THE ACCESSORIES

"Accessories are often overlooked but are actually the finishing touches that complete a whole outfit," says Korman. Sunglasses can vary based on your face's shape, so inspiration for style can come from your destination. "Why not opt for a fedora, or the wider-brimmed Panama hat for a distinctly Latin feel?" says Korman.

Remember, that while all eyes will be on the bride when she walks down the aisle, her eyes will be on you. A few well-tailored staples are all you need, to have a great, long-lasting wardrobe. The final piece of advice Korman gives to grooms before heading to the altar? "Have fun with your look! Clothing is all about an expression of your personality and you'll feel the most confident in clothes that you're comfortable in." 

THESE OUTFITS AND MORE CAN BE FOUND AT
KORRY'S CLOTHIERS FOR GENTLEMEN

569 Danforth Avenue, Toronto.

www.korrys.com



Bugatti



HOST THE
WEDDING
OF YOUR
DREAMS

MELIÁ[~] HOTELS INTERNATIONAL CUBA

Paint the picture of your perfect wedding by choosing Cuba's leading wedding planners! With 16 stunning resorts, Meliá offers a wide range of options from family friendly to adults only properties, as well as luxurious accommodations at its three upscale Paradisus Resorts. Thanks to their on-site wedding specialists, Meliá has become the ideal destination to celebrate love and to live an unforgettable honeymoon.

Choose from an attractive selection of unique wedding packages, including one of the most comprehensive free wedding options available in the Caribbean. Pick the perfect setting for a picturesque ceremony by turquoise waters, in lush gardens, at sunset, and even under the sea! There's something to please each and every bride and groom.

Specializing in the art of romance, Meliá Cuba hotels will help you live the wedding of your dreams by adding special touches to this truly memorable milestone. Offering a wide range of exclusive options, including beautiful wedding bouquets and floral arrangements, private dinners, musicians, captivating live entertainment, and much more, we'll be delighted to transform your vision into a reality.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



VARADERO Paradisus Princesa del Mar | Paradisus Varadero | Meliá Las Américas | Meliá Varadero | Meliá Marina Varadero | Meliá Las Antillas | Sol Palmeras | Sol Sirenas Coral HAVANA Meliá Cohiba | Meliá Habana | Tryp Habana Libre | CAYOS Meliá Buenavista | Meliá Las Dunas | Sol Cayo Santa María | Sol Cayo Guillermo | Meliá Jardines del Rey | Meliá Cayo Coco | Tryp Cayo Coco | Sol Cayo Largo | Sol Pelícano HOLGUIN Sol Río de Luna y Mares | Paradisus Río de Oro SANTIAGO DE CUBA Meliá Santiago de Cuba



Now that you've booked your destination wedding, and have gotten acquainted with your wedding consultant, it seems like you've got months, but the big day is right around the corner!

EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS IN ADVANCE

In order to manage expectations for this special event, you need to start by setting your wedding budget. Assess the amount you have set aside for the wedding (not including travel). And if there are members of your family who will be contributing, discuss their contributions with them well in advance.

Timing is everything, especially when you are planning a destination wedding. And if there are certain people that you specifically want to have in attendance, giving ample notice is not only necessary, but also proper etiquette. Check with key family and friends before you finalize your wedding date so that they have plenty of time to make suitable arrangements.

Start seeking inspiration from stylebooks and galleries on blogs, wedding websites, and planning portals, which will help shape your wedding style preferences. Online boards like Pinterest are great tools to assist you in the initial stages of destination wedding

planning. Some wedding planning sites give you the opportunity to create your own custom boards, helping you collect ideas on colour palettes, seating charts, decorations, dresses, bridal party attire etc.

Select your attendants, both female and male. Start thinking about their attire and communicate your expectations before-hand. Once you've spoken to your bridal party, it's time to focus on you, you and only you! Choosing the wedding dress that suits your body type, the occasion, the destination and your style is one of the most important parts of your wedding planning process. Go dress shopping immediately! Make appointments at local wedding dress shops or start perusing online bridal stores to get ideas of what shapes and styles make you all giddy with excitement. Then, once you've said, "Yes" to the dress, look at purchasing or renting your groom's attire.

Decide what you are going to do with printed materials, from invitations to save-the-date cards, menus to programs, and whatever other collateral you'd like to make part of your special day.

PLANNING *Checklist*

Make sure you and your hubby-to-be have valid travel documents and meet all legal requirements to leave the country. If you are having a religious wedding, book your officiant now, and make sure all legal documents are ready and valid (passports, religious requirements, etc.) for this specific type of ceremony.

Photos hold the most precious memories of your big day. That is why your photographer is your most prized vendor. Book your photographer and confirm that your wedding location will allow outside vendors.

Choose a wedding location, including a venue for your ceremony, cocktail and wedding reception. Once this is complete, you can start getting a better idea of how your celebration will look and feel in these spaces.

To ensure that you are a blushing bride, create a health and beauty schedule for yourself (gym, facials, hair cuts, etc.) so you're in good shape - all around - for the big day.

Your wedding consultant will host a personalized, interactive wedding website for you, so it is time to start working on the site, by including all the things you'd like to share with your guests leading up to your wedding day.

The fun begins when they give you the bar code gun at your favourite department store or boutique shop. Register for gifts and add these details to your wedding website.

Your wedding bands are a symbol of your commitment to one another. Choose rings that will reflect your personalities, but that will also have longevity in terms of style and durability.

Finally, about eight to 10 months in advance of your special day, you will want to send out Save the Date cards to give guests plenty of time to make travel arrangements. There are great deals available when travelling in large numbers, make sure to ask questions about group travel during the planning process.

PLANNING *Checklist*

FOUR TO SEVEN MONTHS IN ADVANCE

Here comes the fun stuff! This is the time to choose your flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, chuppah, flower petals, centrepieces, etc.). Music will make or break your event, so it's important to book your musicians (soloists, bands, DJ, etc.) to ensure that the soundtrack to your special day suits your vision. Just a friendly reminder that at this point in the planning phase, you will need to have finalized your photographer and videographer (if you haven't already). When it comes to the look and feel of your event, this is the time to decide on, and confirm, the colour scheme and theme that will make your celebration unique.

Food will be a very important part of your day, and something that will take careful consideration, especially since you'll want to consider the various food preferences and allowances of your guests. This is the time to narrow down menu selections for the



reception, cocktail reception, etc. This is also a good time to determine your bar selections for all events. Will you be asking the venue to prepare a signature drink for your special day, or offering special shots to commemorate your nuptials, all these need to be considered and communicated at this time.

Selecting your wedding cake, including flavours, style, icing and decor, is next on the list. Also, if you are electing to have a cake topper, this is the time to search for it.

At this point, you'll want to make sure all invitations (including programs and escort cards) are in the works.

TWO TO THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE

Shop for footwear (keeping in mind all events and baggage allowance), and also 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.

This is the time to finalize flower selections, dinner and drink menus.

When it comes to photography, since your day will be a whirlwind for you and your groom, it's helpful to create a shot list you would like the photographer and videographer to capture, since these vendors might not know if you want lots of photos with your bridal party, or a special portrait of you with Grandma J. Regardless, it's good to communicate what memories you'd like them to focus on - after all, this is your day, and you want to create valuable memories you can cherish on your 10th, 25th and 50th (even 70th) wedding anniversary!

IT WILL RESULT IN AN
EVENT THAT WILL
BE ETCHED IN YOUR
MEMORY FOREVER



Confirm the officiant, and make sure you have all documentation ready if you are having a religious ceremony.

If your hotel or restaurant requires that you let them know about any special meal requests, send out dinner selection inquiries to your guests.

Update your website with any newly planned events, like the rehearsal dinner, welcome cocktail, after party or post-wedding brunch.

Voila! The time has come to send out your invitations.

It's almost go-time! Put together a wedding itinerary for your guests. This is a nice touch for out-of-town guests (which is pretty much, all of them) to receive, since it keep everyone moving in the right direction of the big day.

Compile a music playlist of some favourites, if you have hired a DJ or are setting up an iPod set list, here's your chance to pay tribute to your past, present and future with some great, and meaningful, tunes. If you're hiring live musicians, start selecting songs, as well, or send them sheet music now to learn.

Source and order all wedding favors and bridal party attendant gifts.

Finally, you want to have some fun while you're in an exciting new destination with your loved ones. So what better way to thank your guests for joining you in paradise, than by arranging a fun-filled tour or excursion for the group before or after the wedding?!

In the end, all the planning and organizing will result in an event that will be etched in your memory forever. Make it count, and most importantly, make it fun! 



A PREMIER CARIBBEAN WEDDING DESTINATION

Cancun is Mexico's premier beach destination. Located along the stunning Caribbean coast, few places in the world offer brides, grooms and honeymooners such exciting and accessible diversity. From ancient pyramids to modern amenities, Cancun has it all for an authentic, unforgettable celebration of love.

Romance and excitement are at your fingertips along the 22-kilometre-long peninsula that is home to the Hotel Zone. Beautiful beaches – the kind that travel posters promise but seldom deliver – are right at your feet. 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, the peninsula offers truly breathtaking settings for an unforgettable event under the sun.

Sophisticated luxury comforts, modern hotels and a spectacular array of activities surround you. Clear blue waters invite divers and snorkellers to be awestruck by the colourful reefs and vibrant marine life, while a wild, tropical rainforest filled with exotic birds, reptiles and mammals welcomes you just outside of town. With a range of activities to suit water babies and landlubbers, everyone can appreciate the natural splendour of Cancun.

What's more, history, culture, nature, sporting activities, shopping, as well as Mexican and international dining are all integral parts of a Cancun honeymoon, it will be hard to fit it all into one trip!

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.

cancun

Puerto Morelos • Isla Mujeres • Holbox • Cozumel

MÉXICO
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT

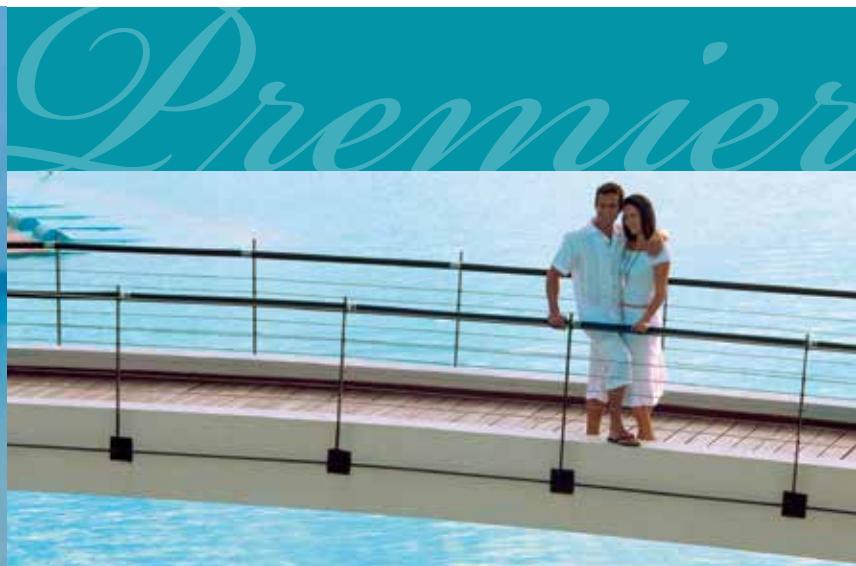


PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

Congratulations to Ashley and Chris on winning our Destination Weddings Photo Contest from Volume 4 Issue 2.

EVERYTHING
ABOUT US SEEMED
TO FIT PERFECTLY



Michael Steingard Photography.



REAL WEDDINGS ASHLEY & CHRIS

Destined to be

"From the very beginning, she was my best friend. It was like we were destined to be. Everything about us seemed to fit perfectly and it just came naturally," Chris gushes, recounting what first attracted him to Ashley.

The couple met when they were younger; Chris was walking down the street when Ashley's best friend, and a mutual friend of Chris', noticed him. She called him over so they could meet. Ashley couldn't resist his smile, "[Shortly after], we began to hang out and ended up at the same high school. Within the year we began dating, and have been together ever since!"

Basked in the glow of fireworks at Niagara Falls, Chris popped the question on their eight-year anniversary. "Niagara seemed to be our go-to spot [for] the last few years to celebrate [our anniversary], so I never thought much about it," remembers Ashley. "But I was speechless. The day we long spoke about was finally here."

THEY EXCHANGED
VOWS IN THE
BEACHFRONT
GAZEBO



Michael Steingard Photography



REAL WEDDINGS
ASHLEY & CHRIS



The first look

November 2014 saw Ashley and Chris come together in a sparkling ceremony at the Royalton Punta Cana Resort and Casino. Facing the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean Sea, they exchanged vows in the beachfront gazebo.

Ashley recalls the special touches that made their day unforgettable, "My father was the officiant for our ceremony. Not only was I able to have my father walk me down the aisle; he was able to stand by my side as we said our vows. I am one lucky girl!"

One cherished memory Ashley holds dear is the "first look" the couple had on their big day, a ring scare during the ceremony (the ring was soon to be found), and having the bride's sister and close friends sing the couple's wedding song.

Chris recounts seeing Ashley walk down the aisle as his most memorable moment of the entire experience, "She looked perfect, every day we had spent together had led to that great moment and it is [one] that I will never forget."

Both of them were unanimous in their choice to get married in Punta Cana. Chris emphasizes, "Being in paradise with so many people that I love is a feeling that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Their reception led them to an intimate poolside affair, where the champagne flowed and the air was fragrant with the ocean breeze. Surrounded by roses and cala lilies, Jeff and Ashley swayed to Ed Sheeran's Kiss Me for their first dance as husband and wife.



The happy couple sneaked in an extra week in Punta Cana for their honeymoon, "We decided to stay down south for a second week where we made our way over to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. We were able to spend our time relaxing just the two of us, with no priorities," they beamed.

As the winners of the Destination Weddings Photo Contest, Ashley and Chris will be treated to a romantic getaway at Royalton Riviera Cancun in Mexico.

Michael Steingard Photography.

DESTINED TO
BE TOGETHER



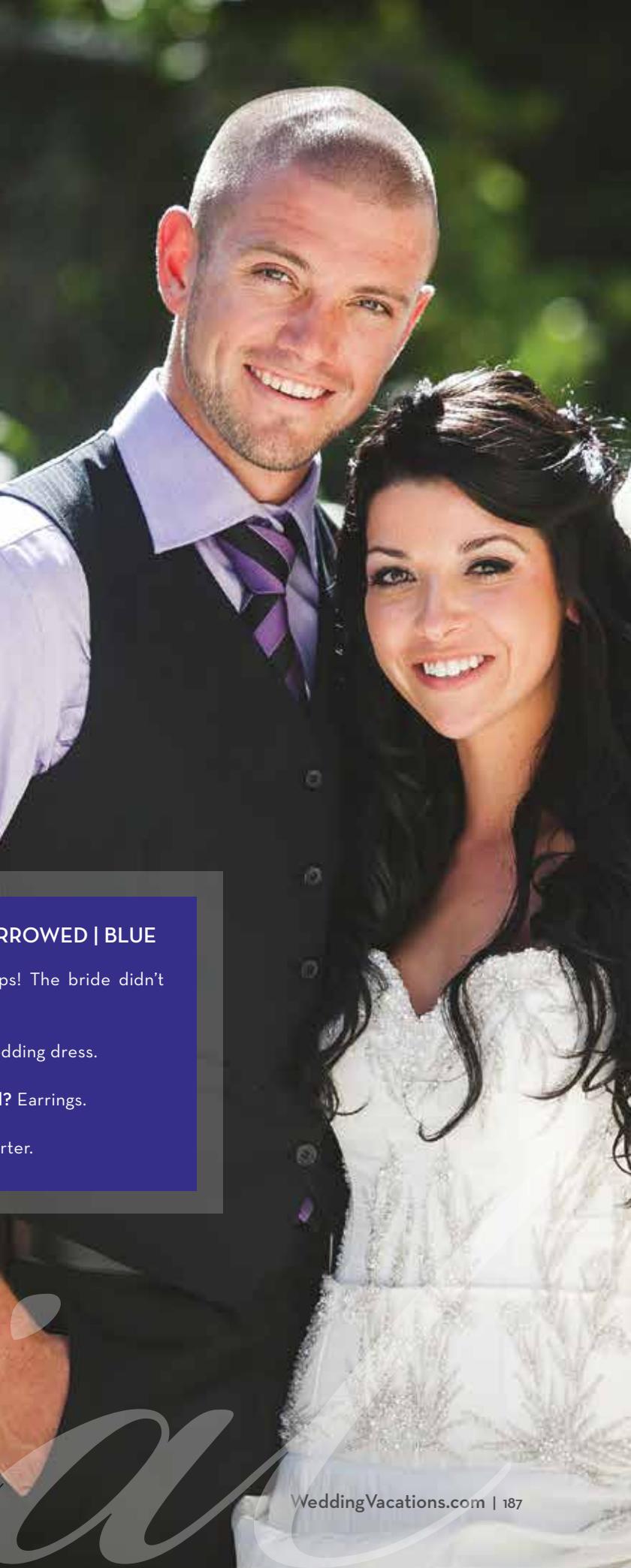
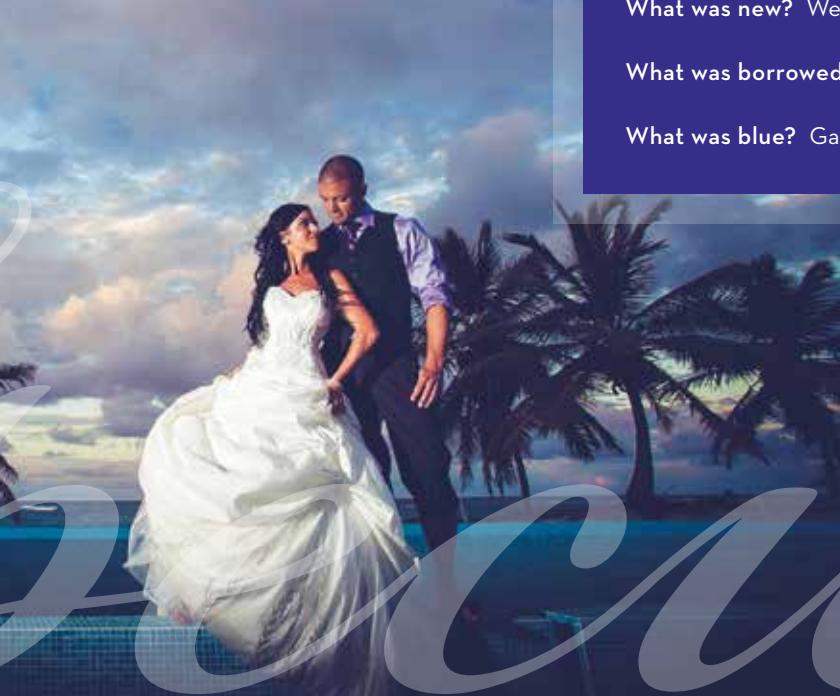
OLD | NEW | BORROWED | BLUE

What was old? Oops! The bride didn't have anything old.

What was new? Wedding dress.

What was borrowed? Earrings.

What was blue? Garter.



REAL WEDDINGS
ASHLEY & CHRIS

AN INTIMATE AFFAIR



Michael Steingard Photography.

ASHLEY & CHRIS' TIPS FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS

• Invest in your photographer! Your photos are all that you have at the end of the day. It's hard to remember every little detail when you are so busy taking it all in. It's your photographer's job to capture every moment so that you can look back at all the work you put into making your day so special.

• Don't stress over every little detail. Enjoy it! 

GET THEIR LOOK

Ashley's gown: Jacquelin Exclusive taffeta dress. "I had a vision in mind of what I wanted my dress to look like and could not quite find the perfect one. I picked one closest to what I wanted, and then redesigned it with my Aunt Trish who created my dream wedding dress!" Ashley recounts.

Ashley's shoes: Beaded sandals throughout the day, and Le Château purple heels for photos.

Chris' outfit: Rolled up sleeves, a pin-striped vest, tie, and black pants by designers Sean John and Horst. Quicksilver sandals and Ray-Ban sunglasses completed the look!

Bridesmaids dresses: Royal purple taffeta cocktail dresses.

Groomsmens attire: Rolled-up, long-sleeved metallic lilac shirt, black pants and tie.

Photographer: Michael Steingard of Michael Steingard Photography.

Hair: Sonia at the Royalton Punta Cana Resort & Casino.

Makeup: DIY

A wide-angle photograph of a bride and groom posing on a large, leaning palm tree trunk. The bride is seated on the trunk, wearing a white strapless gown with a long train. The groom stands behind her, wearing a purple shirt, dark vest, and dark pants. They are surrounded by many palm trees under a cloudy sky.

Sign up to submit your destination wedding photos in the next WeddingVacations.com Photo Contest on the WeddingVacations.com Facebook page for your chance to win a honeymoon in paradise. For more details, flip to page 224.



Riviera Maya offers you the perfect location for the beach wedding or honeymoon of your dreams. From a barefoot cabana hotel to an extravagant all inclusive resort, there are a multitude of refined and sophisticated or laid-back and sand-swept venues to host one of the greatest milestones of your life.

Stretching for 120 km along the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, Riviera Maya offers several idyllic and pristine settings that are perfect for all tastes:

- Playa Paraiso is an intimate escape for honeymooners thanks to its spectacular, pearly-white beach surrounded by coconut trees and a lush tropical forest
- Playa del Carmen is the region's main city offering 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 offers powdery, white-sand beaches, ideal for whiling away hours under the Mexican sun

- Akumal is an optimal spot for those seeking relaxation in a charming atmosphere, while its warm waters and high clarity invite snorkellers and scuba divers to explore a vibrant underwater world

- Tulum is an ideal spot to relax and take in the laid-back atmosphere, where breathtaking Mayan ruins perched on a cliff overlook the Caribbean Sea

Whichever locale you find yourself in, Riviera Maya offers a variety of unique settings to create the perfect ambiance for your romantic wedding or honeymoon.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



RIVIERA
MAYA
Paradise is Forever



MÉXICO
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT



A RANGE OF UNIQUE OPTIONS
FOR ROMANCE IN RIVIERA MAYA







THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Sandos Hotels & Resorts offers a range of distinctive, all inclusive destination wedding experiences that appeal to the couple looking for a unique getaway. Couples can choose their own wedding adventure at one of Sandos' four renowned resorts in Mexico.

Sandos Caracol Eco Resort. This beautiful, all inclusive resort, nestled along the unspoiled beaches of Riviera Maya, is a picture-perfect destination for nature lovers. Couples can choose to exchange vows near a crystal-clear cenote, beneath an immense beachfront gazebo, or on a rooftop terrace.

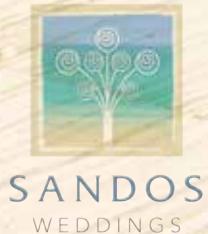
Sandos Finisterra Los Cabos. Couples can request an awe-inspiring ceremony atop a cliff surrounded by family and friends, on a stretch of endless beach, or in a romantic desert garden setting.

Sandos Playacar Beach Resort. This gem in Riviera Maya is an over-the-top luxury destination, and its magnificent white-sand beach and turquoise Caribbean waters offer an idyllic setting for that quintessential beach wedding. What's more, the lush wedding garden offers a romantic and memorable venue for an intimate ceremony.

Sandos Cancun Luxury Experience Resort. This boutique, all inclusive property perfectly fuses the natural beauty of the area with luxury and sophistication. Couples can choose to say, "I do" at an oceanfront gazebo barefoot on the white-sand beach or at the oceanfront Martinière rooftop terrace. *Ooh la la!*

Wherever you choose to say your vows, Sandos offers exceptional service, with a variety of menus and presentations through which couples can let their personalities shine. As an added bonus, brides and grooms who host a wedding at any of the four Mexican resorts will receive a complimentary honeymoon package.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.





ASK THE *experts*



The experienced destination wedding and event planners we work with at WeddingVacations.com strive to create flawless and memorable events for their clients with a keen eye for detail and a passion for managing, organizing and executing successful events. Here, Meghan, a seasoned wedding consultant, from WeddingVacations.com, addresses the burning questions and sticky situations posed by real brides and grooms-to-be in the forums sections.

Dear WeddingVacations.com,

I'm in the early stages of planning my destination wedding and am already starting to panic about the whole gift thing. After asking my guests to pay for their travel, I don't want them to think they have to give me a gift, but I don't want them to think I'm ungrateful, either. Help!

- Bianca

Dear Bianca,

No need to panic! Since, it sounds like you're still in the early stages of planning, you most likely haven't sent out your invitations yet. Including a simple line such as, "Your presence is presents enough," will go a long way in offering your guests some guidance about your preference regarding gifts. Furthermore, if you have a wedding website you can create a registry page and include a note along the same lines.

Keep in mind that some people may still prefer to give you something, especially if they are not able to attend the wedding. If you set up a gift registry, make sure to include your home address so that these items can be shipped directly to you - who wants to lug a blender home from Jamaica?! Make sure you discuss the matter with your wedding party as well so that they are able to inform guests if they are asked about it and so that they can help collect and transport any gifts you may receive in destination.

Dear WeddingVacations.com,

We're getting married in Mexico and were planning on doing a legal wedding until we heard about all the requirements, like having blood work done in destination (yikes!). We don't want our friends and family to travel all that way and feel like they are watching some farce of a ceremony rather than the real deal, but all of the legal requirements are making us nervous. Will it be obvious that our ceremony is only symbolic if we don't go through with all of the legal stuff?

- Desiree & Terry

Dear Desiree & Terry,

You're not alone! It is common for brides and grooms to opt out of legal ceremonies in destination in order to avoid the strict legal requirements which vary by country - this doesn't mean you have to give up on having a traditional ceremony! If you decide to have a symbolic ceremony in destination and get legally married locally, either at city hall or by a hired officiant, just let your wedding consultant know that you don't want your guests to know that you are already married. The notary can perform the symbolic ceremony exactly as if it were legal, right down to having you sign your "marriage certificate" in front of all your loved ones. No one even has to know you were technically married prior to arriving in Mexico!

Dear WeddingVacations.com,

I've been dreaming about having a destination wedding for years now - I always pictured myself barefoot on the beach having dinner, a bonfire, dance party, the works! Now that I'm engaged and have actually started to plan, I'm realizing that the reception component at my dream beach wedding may be a little bit out of my price range. My cousin told me that if I had the dinner in one of the hotel restaurants, the dinner wouldn't be private and we wouldn't be able to dance or bring in our own decor. Even if it can't be my dream reception I still want something special - any suggestions?

- Robyn

Dear Robyn,

Don't give up on your beach celebration just yet! While your cousin is right about there being certain restrictions in select hotel restaurants, there are still some other ways to make your dreams a reality! Doing a semi-private dinner at one of the hotel restaurants is a great way to cut down costs, but why let the party stop there? Let your wedding consultant know that you're interested in doing a private after-party on the beach and they can give you pricing on bar service and any other elements you want to add in. Depending on what your budget is you might want to consider a DJ, dance floor, late night food and/or candy bar, lounge furniture, tiki torches and more to really amplify your beach bash experience. If that still doesn't help to get you to a comfortable place with your budget, talk to them about what VIP packages are available at the resort disco - they may be able to offer you bottle service and a special reserved area for you and your guests.





adlem

Dear WeddingVacations.com,

When my fiancé and I first got engaged there was no doubt in our minds that we wanted to have a destination wedding. Thrilled with our decision, we started sharing the news with our close friends and family, which is when my future mother-in-law threw a fit because she wanted us to have a traditional Hindu ceremony. Is there a way to compromise so that everyone is happy?

- Aarti

Dear Aarti,

I'm sorry to hear that your future mother-in-law wasn't as thrilled about your wedding plans as you were! The good news is that there is definitely a way to ensure that everyone is happy. When deciding which resort to book, make sure to let your wedding consultant know that you are interested in a Hindu ceremony. Many properties have experience executing the traditional aspects of the custom; from sourcing *pandit* and *mehndi* services, to the coordination of ceremony requirements. In addition, your wedding consultant can help find a property that will be able to put together a custom package for you to include all the Hindu ceremony aspects your mother-in-law is looking for while still keeping your destination wedding dreams alive - the best of both worlds!



Dear WeddingVacations.com,

My fiancé and I have decided that we want our wedding to be a "kids-free zone" and have chosen an adults only resort. What is the best way to let our guests know without offending anyone?

- Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

No matter where you get married, be it on a beach in Jamaica or somewhere local, a lot of people struggle with the decision of whether or not to invite children. The best way to handle this situation is by setting the tone right out of the gate. Your save-the-date and formal invitations should both be addressed only to those who are invited - generally most people will get the message from this alone. If you're concerned about someone not understanding your decision, be sure to give them a call prior to sending out your invitations and discuss it with them, being careful, of course, of how you phrase it, 'Unfortunately we were only able to invite the two of you to our wedding at the Hideaway at Royalton Riviera Cancun in Mexico,' sounds infinitely better than, 'Your kids aren't invited to our wedding.' It is also important that you give your guests as much notice as possible as they will need to make childcare arrangements in order to attend your wedding.

Above all else, it's important that you accept that you might get mixed responses from people. For some guests, despite how much they want to celebrate with you, they may not be able to make it work. On the other hand, others may be thrilled about the prospect of going on vacation while leaving the kids at home, and will be thanking you for giving them an excuse! 



WONDERFUL WEDDED BLISS





Huatulco is one of Mexico's most relaxed destinations noted for its dreamy beach locales, golden sands and crystal-clear waters. It's also a sustainable tourist community, making it an attractive wedding option for eco-conscious couples.

A taste of adventure

As a honeymoon option, culture and history buffs would do well to find themselves in the magical city of Oaxaca, the state capital. There, couples can explore ancient archaeological sites, vibrant and colourful markets, rich colonial architecture, and fascinating native cultures.

Adventure-seeking couples and their guests can get their adrenaline rush with ziplining expeditions through the jungle, rafting, kayaking and fishing.

Blissful beaches

Of course, there is the option to just relax and settle into newlywed bliss on one of the 36 beaches and numerous inlets and coves – each with its own unique setting and ecological landscape.

Drizzled in culture

Huatulco's urban centre, La Crucecita, is a great place to do some shopping, and enjoy a little arts and culture – and indulge in what is reportedly the best pizza in town.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.

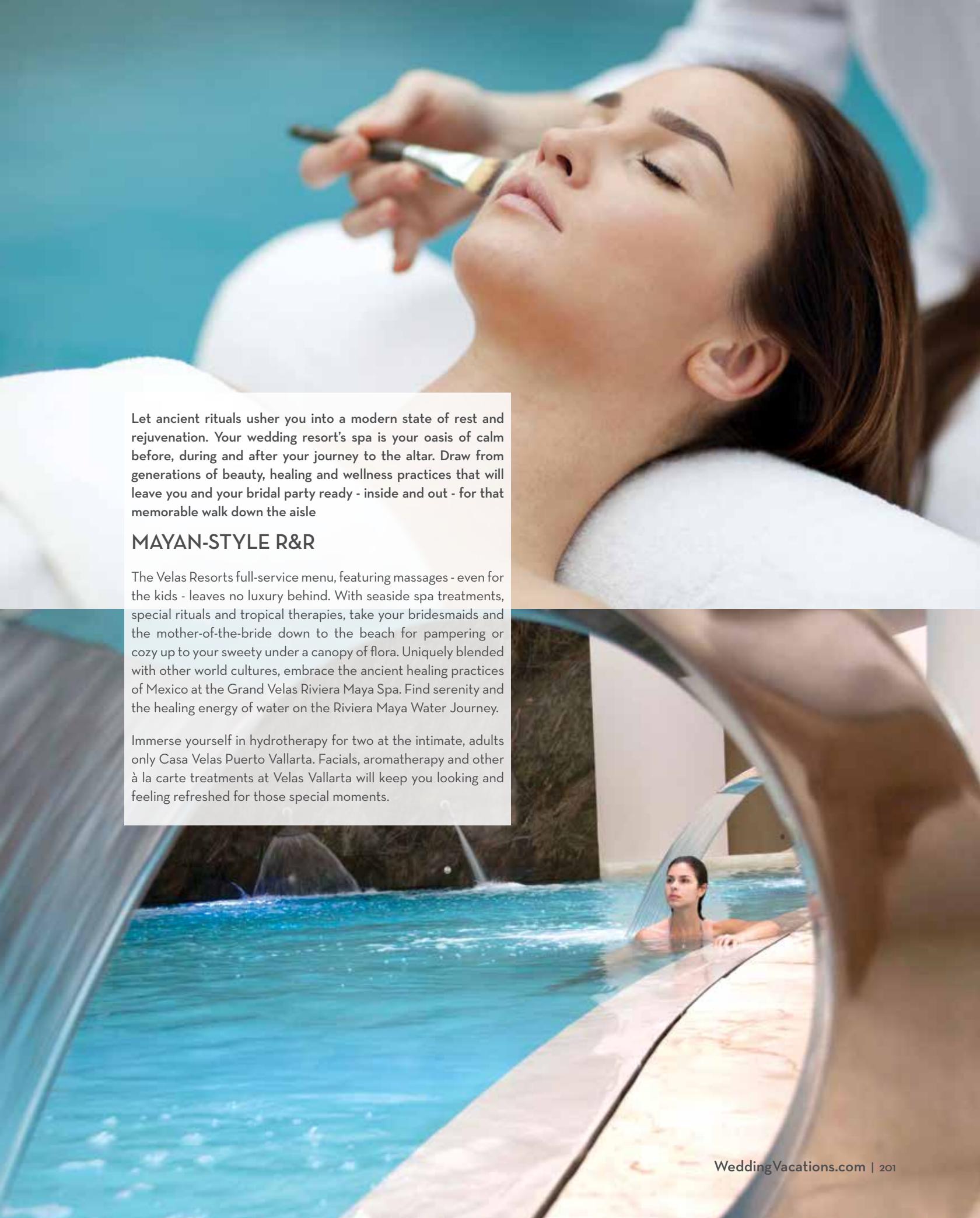




ANCIENT SPA RITUALS FOR THE “BIG DAY” AND BEYOND

By Ruane Remy

“Whether you are basking in ancient Mayan rituals or tapping into nature’s invaluable resources, these treatments will leave you feeling confident as you walk down the aisle...”



Let ancient rituals usher you into a modern state of rest and rejuvenation. Your wedding resort's spa is your oasis of calm before, during and after your journey to the altar. Draw from generations of beauty, healing and wellness practices that will leave you and your bridal party ready - inside and out - for that memorable walk down the aisle

MAYAN-STYLE R&R

The Velas Resorts full-service menu, featuring massages - even for the kids - leaves no luxury behind. With seaside spa treatments, special rituals and tropical therapies, take your bridesmaids and the mother-of-the-bride down to the beach for pampering or cozy up to your sweetie under a canopy of flora. Uniquely blended with other world cultures, embrace the ancient healing practices of Mexico at the Grand Velas Riviera Maya Spa. Find serenity and the healing energy of water on the Riviera Maya Water Journey.

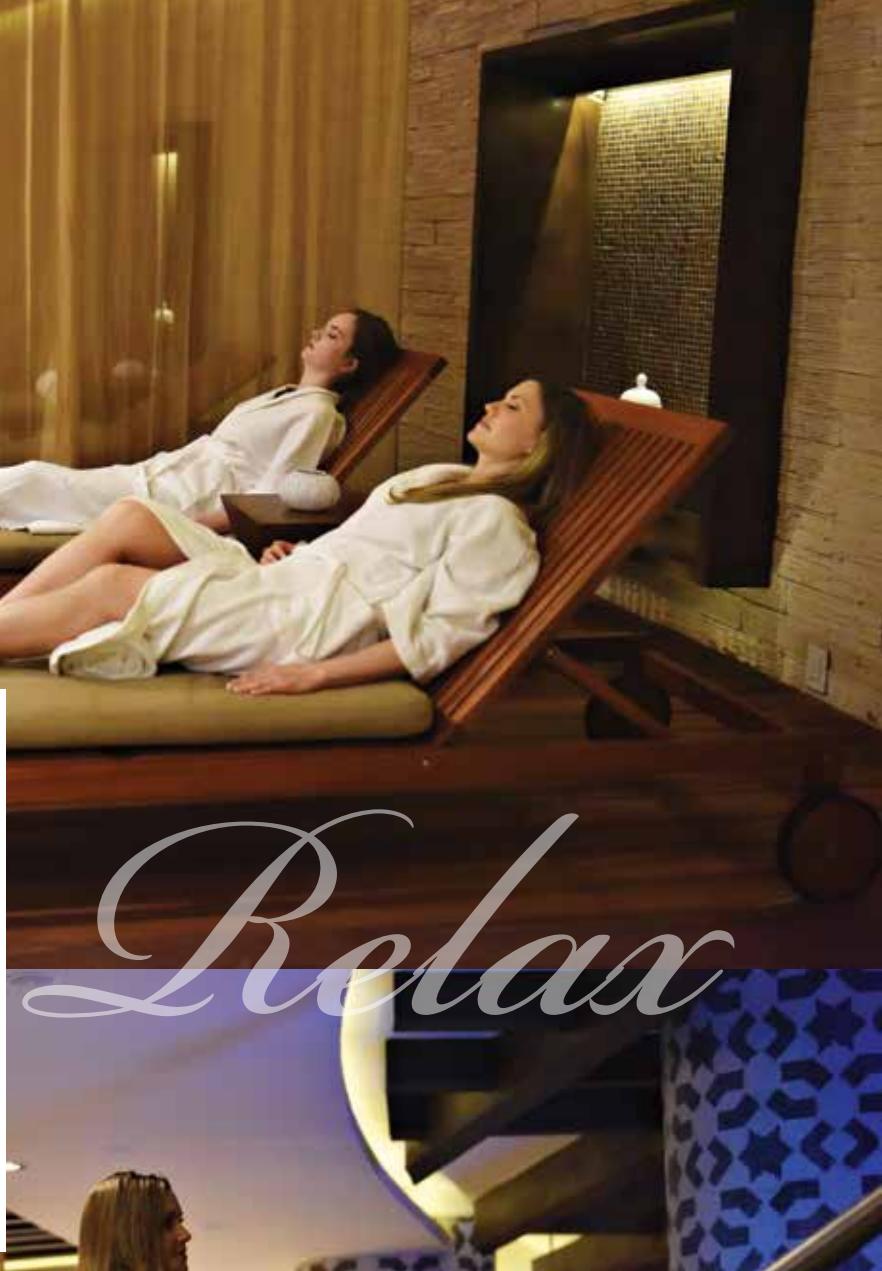
Immerse yourself in hydrotherapy for two at the intimate, adults only Casa Velas Puerto Vallarta. Facials, aromatherapy and other à la carte treatments at Velas Vallarta will keep you looking and feeling refreshed for those special moments.



REJUVENATE IN RIVIERA CANCUN

Fire, like water, has deep cleansing power and Hideaway Royalton Riviera Cancun works this powerful element into key rituals and treatments to purify and protect. Skin is your body's first point of contact, so tease your senses first with a soak, and then let the hot stones sink in. Target key muscles and invigorate general virility with a Thermal Energy massage or give into ancient Hawaiian Lomi Lomi combined with hot pads.

The Essential Man facial can cater to the groom and groomsmen. Among the spa's specialties are the massages for your hands and reflexology for your feet, which will help combat the effects of dancing all night in the sand.

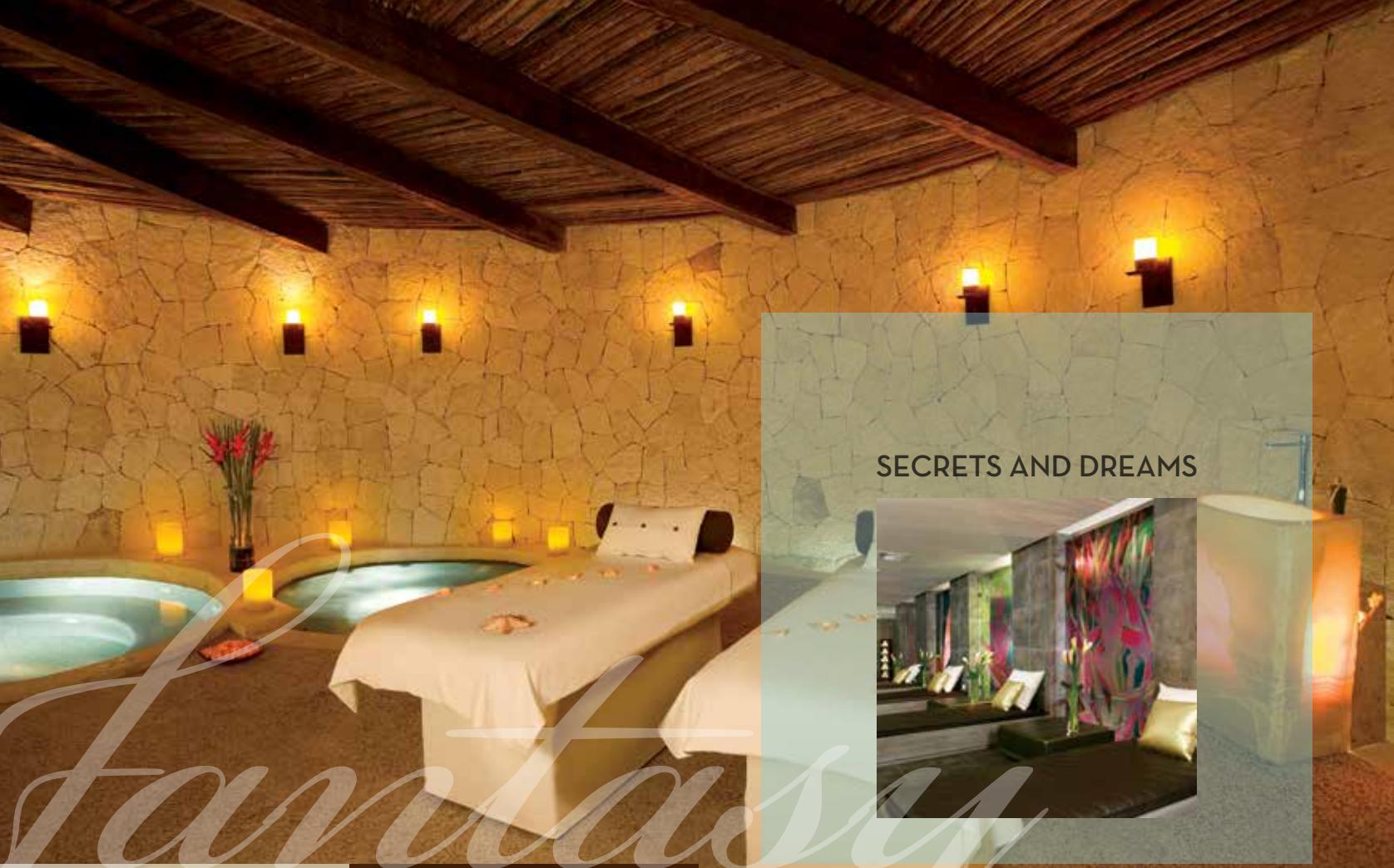




Shine

SHIMMER AND SHINE AT CHIC

Define your nuptial experience with the elegance and style of CHIC Punta Cana. Botanical plants, which permeate a variety of the spa's rituals and treatments, are nature's long-time remedy for the anxiety that ails you. Cleanse your pores for photo-ready skin with an aromatic plant-based facial. Gels of chamomile, calendula and aloe vera are ready to cool and calm your body as you cover yourself from scalp to sole with a scrub of botanical oils designed to deeply penetrate your skin with moisture. You will be left glowing with this selection of massages that bring together a rich blend of botanical ingredients and regenerative techniques.



SECRETS AND DREAMS



Find the relaxation you seek at a selection of Secrets Resorts & Spas, and bask in the unity of a shared spa experience *a deux*. Before your wedding night, revitalize with reflexology's pressure-point massage or stonewall your stress levels with a full-body hot stone massage. Honour this special time by taking euphoria to new levels with Sabai Mineral Therapy, a unique spa stone therapy that marries minerals and the use of essential oils to stimulate circulation, heal and repair. And for that striking look, turn to nature's eternal healing powers with the After Sun Soothing facial, ideal for sun-damaged skin, or the anti-aging and hydrating Luminous "C" & Sea Facial that draws from the rejuvenating qualities of vitamins and seaweed.

Wedding wishes do come true at the Secrets' sister, Dreams Resorts & Spas. A number of these resorts share many of the same massages and treatments that make fantasy your reality. Wrap your body and your senses in ancient gifts from the earth. Go straight to the source with Aromatic Black Mud to rid yourself of pain and fatigue from head to toe, leaving you in peak physical form for your honeymoon. Thanks to the cocoa tree, the deliciously effective Chocolate Body Wrap treatment is a feast for your skin. First course is chocolate and mint exfoliation, followed by a serving of the warm chocolate wrap, and finished with a decadent chocolate moisturizer.

Your passport to massages and treatments from around the world awaits at the Sandos Caracol. This deluxe and environmentally-friendly spa for the eco-conscious couple draws from cultural traditions carried through time. Ditch wedding day jitters and follow a shaman through Temazcal, an ancient Mayan purification therapy



SINK INTO SANDOS



for your mind, body and soul. Check out Channel Polynesian dance through rhythmic techniques that improve circulation just in time for your wedding night. Then mix and match your favourite ancient techniques, like reflexology and hot stone massages, to suit your combined tastes as a couple. Be fearless and don't hesitate to try something new and exotic together.

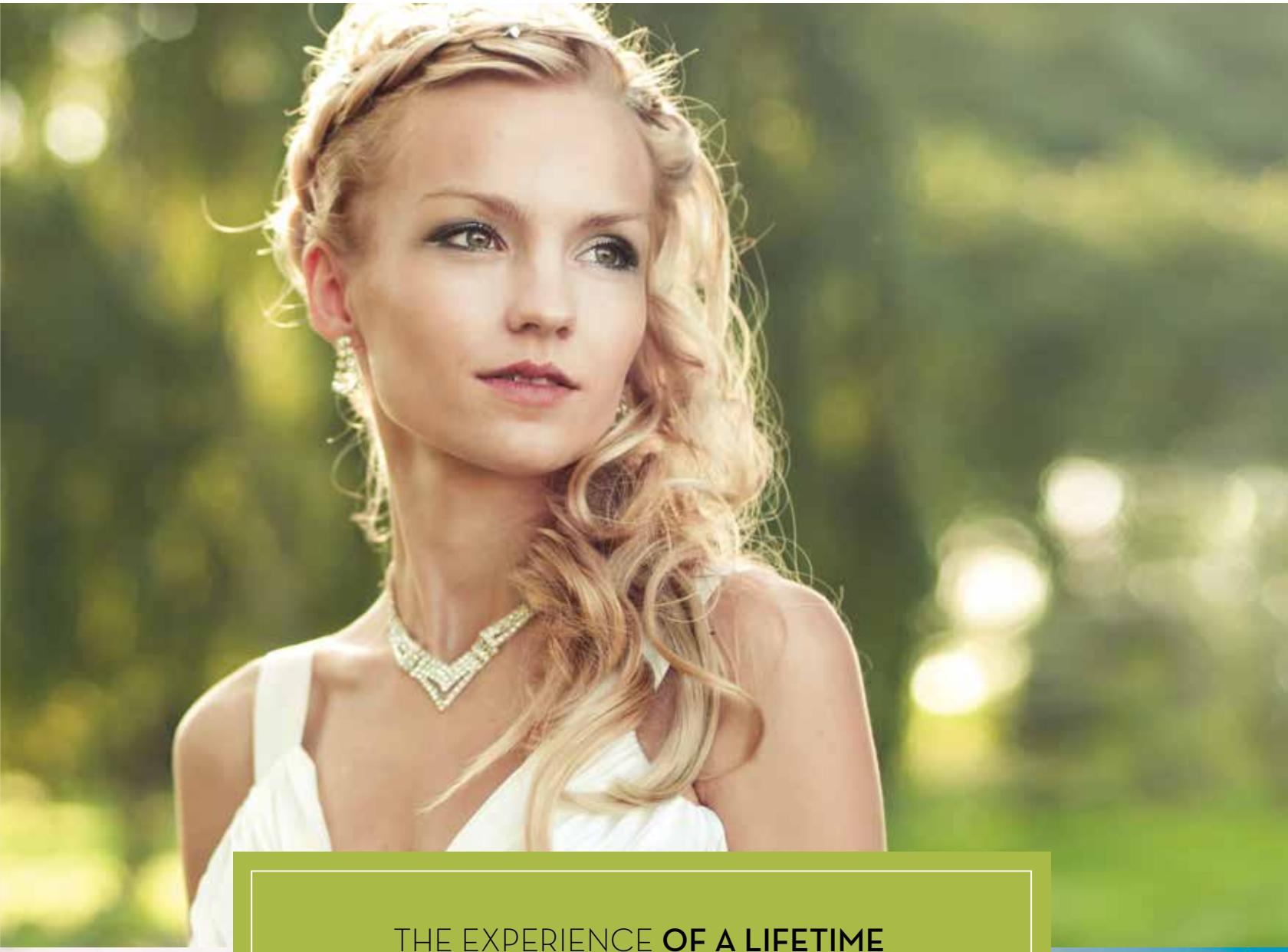
When you feel good, you look good. Resort spas allow you to reach both these goals in time to celebrate life and love on your wedding day. Whether you are basking in ancient Mayan rituals or tapping into nature's invaluable resources, these treatments will leave you feeling confident as you walk down the aisle, so all you have left to worry about are two special words: I do. 



Can you imagine a more picturesque place to say, "I do" than The Bahamas? Neither can we. Plan your destination wedding on beautiful Grand Bahama Island at the picture-perfect Pelican Bay Hotel; have your photos taken against the stunning backdrop of turquoise waters, powder-soft sands and awe-inspiring tropical sunsets unique to this part of the world. Start your new life with romance and a cloud-nine state of mind with the help of our creative and professional on-site planners.

We offer a variety of elegant venues spanning 30,000 square feet of flexible indoor or outdoor settings for Lucaya weddings, receptions, rehearsal dinners and more. After you've exchanged vows under a cloudless sky, why not stay awhile longer, for Pelican Bay Hotel is not only a beautiful place to host a wedding, but is also a honeymoon hot spot!

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



THE EXPERIENCE **OF A LIFETIME**





ADVENTURES FOR THE **WHOLE** WEDDING PARTY!

Excursions are a great way to discover a new culture, history and landscape of your destination. It is also an opportunity to create long-lasting memories with your friends and family and to explore all your destination has to offer in the departments of sun, sand, surf, and sights. While excursions provide the perfect excuse for you and your sweetie to sneak away for some time alone, another popular trend gaining in popularity is the “Thank You” group excursion, which gives the happy couple the chance to thank their other guests by treating them to an exciting and fulfilling experience in destination. Consider taking your bridal party or groomsmen for a night out on the town or on an exhilarating tour on land or in the water. If the whole extended family is in tow, there are plenty of high-energy adventures, to laid-back sojourns that will please everyone, from small cousins to grandparents.

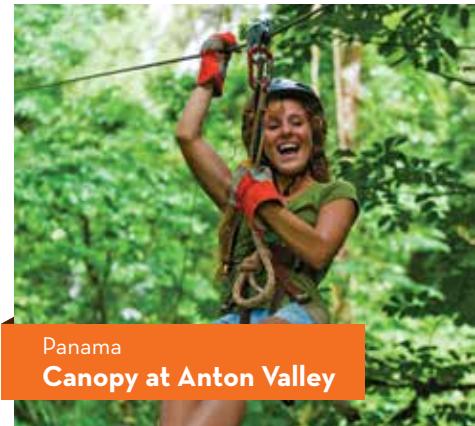
Check out our top picks for excursions across Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Whether you’re looking to sneak away for some pre-wedding day fun with your sweetheart, or looking for inspiration for excursions to gift your wedding party and group, there are thrills and chills that will make for an unforgettable experience during your wedding vacation.



ALLURING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUPLES



Los Cabos, Mexico
Outback Camel Safari



Panama
Canopy at Anton Valley

What could be more romantic or epic than a desert adventure à la “Lawrence of Arabia”? Explore the heart of the Baja Desert on a 4WD truck, followed by a camel ride on the beach to take in the beautiful Baja peninsula coastline. After a stroll along the rugged coastline, visit to a local ranch where you can sample authentic Mexican food such as handmade tortillas, beans, and salsas, and perk up with local tequila. While you eat, you may catch a humpback whale passing by in the ocean during the months between December and April.



Curaçao
Scuba Diving



Grand Bahama Island, The Bahamas
Dolphin Dive

If you've always wanted to experience unparalleled adventure and discover an underwater world teeming with aquatic critters, an opportunity to swim the waters of Curaçao is an experience not to be missed. Under the waves, this is where it starts. Get your scuba diving certificate with an open water course from an experienced and knowledgeable instructor, then go on to discover the wonders of the aquatic world.

Interact with these playful and intelligent creatures in their natural open ocean environment. Truly a one-of-a-kind experience, swimming with the dolphins is a great way for soon-to-be brides and grooms to de-stress or just allow themselves to splash with these fun-loving mammals. You are surrounded by beautiful corals and other marine life, not only do you dive with dolphins but you also have the chance to explore the amazing and intricate coral reef.

WEDDING “PARTY” PICKS



Santiago de Cuba, Cuba
Caribbean & Mountain Jeep Safari



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Extreme Adventure

This two-day excursion takes you to the second largest city in Cuba. Get behind the wheel of a 4x4 Jeep and discover breathtaking scenery as you climb the highest summit in Cuba's Sierra Maestra mountain range and enjoy a delicious lunch. Your second day starts with a sumptuous breakfast, which you'll need in order to climb the Turquino summit at Sierra Maestra National Park, before hopping in your Jeep and heading back to your hotel.

When it comes to excitement and adrenaline, this tour offers the most activities packed into one fun-filled day of adventure. Feel the need for speed as you soar through the treetops on a series of zip lines, including Mexico's longest and fastest, and rappel down waterfalls, traverse jungle bridges and finally splash in to a natural river pools, and an exhilarating off road ride in a Polaris® ATV through the Sierra Madre Mountains!



Cancun, Mexico
Coco Bongo



La Ceiba, Honduras
White Water Rafting

Enjoy a sparkling night of fun and high energy party at Coco Bongo! This night club, famous for its great music and the best shows in the area, offers nightly live entertainment with more bells and whistles than you can even imagine! Featuring a world-famous show with over 40 performers on stage, Coco Bongo is a real party arena with a high-energy spectacle that will have you singing and dancing with the acts all night. So go ahead, and join Coco Bongo party!

For the wedding parties who are looking for some high-octane adventure, white water rafting fits the bill. Test your courage and challenge your skills as you battle the rapids of the Cangrejal River through stunning mountain scenery in Pico Bonito National Park. As a technical river with lots of challenging rapids, the Cangrejal River is one of the best rivers to raft in Central America. No experience? No problem - our skilled and knowledgeable guides will steer you through rapids and over the falls.



GROUPS GALORE



Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Side by Side



Los Cabos, Mexico
Luxury Sunset Sailing



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Rhythms of the Night

Experience rip-roaring fun and discover Punta Cana aboard one of our fun and modern off-road Club Car 4x4 buggies. With stops to visit one of the most beautiful ecological reserves in the Caribbean, swim in a crystal-clear lagoon and relax on a pristine beach, this is a fantastic way to spend a day with your loved ones in Punta Cana.

Kick back and relax on board a spectacular Beneteau Cyclades 52' sailboat and sail to the light of a technicolour sunset while enjoying five-star service on this luxurious experience. Enjoy a bevy of drinks from the open bar and freshly-prepared appetizers as you take in the stunning sunset over the bay of Los Cabos where you'll sail along the shoreline towards to the Cabo lighthouse. If you're looking for an opportunity to create unforgettable memories, this excursion is the ticket.

As night falls, the secluded cove of Las Caletas transforms into a magical paradise, the ultimate backdrop for The Rhythms of the Night, an amazing voyage that will transport you and your group to a mystical and spiritual land that time forgot. Watch the city lights in the distance on board a short Pacific sunset cruise across Banderas Bay to the private isolated cove. A private candlelit table by the beach with a delicious buffet dinner under the stars provides the perfect ambiance for leisurely conversation with your group. The beat of the drum calls you to the outdoor amphitheatre to be mesmerized by a spectacular dance show that transports you through time with stories of ancient civilizations. 





REFINED AND SOPHISTICATED AT PALLADIUM

Imagine saying, "I do" along the sugary white shores of the Caribbean where a warm and gentle breeze rustles the palm trees. The wedding of your dreams is within reach at the all inclusive 5-star Palladium Hotels & Resorts.

For the savvy bride who envisions a cosmopolitan experience in a tropical locale, Palladium has partnered with Karen Bussen, one of Manhattan's leading wedding consultants to create the Simple Stunning Wedding package series exclusive to Grand Palladium Resorts. Choose from five refined and sophisticated options that will allow you to customize a celebration that reflects your unique style.

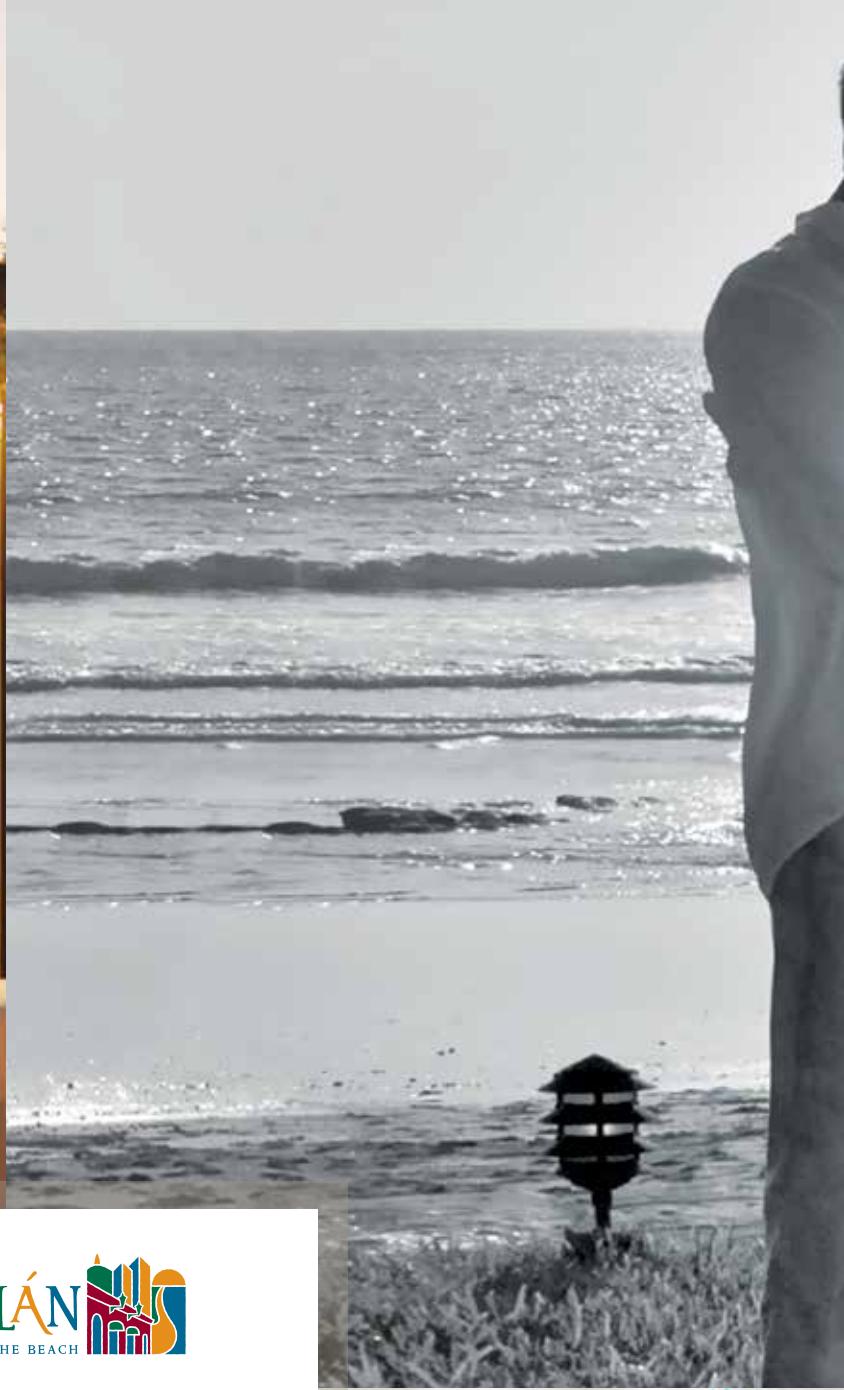
Enjoy the natural splendour at the Palladium locations. Exchange your vows on a romantic clifftop gazebo surrounded by palm trees and lush tropical gardens overlooking the sea, or come together in romantic union on one of our beautiful beaches, which offer the perfect scenery under the sun. For a regal touch, opt to hold your ceremony in the spa, where classical columns in the background create an elegant ambience, or start your married lives at one of a number of charming wedding chapels on site at Palladium's resorts in Mexico.

Whatever your style, taste and budget, Palladium Resorts can transform your wedding vision into a reality that will surpass all your expectations. For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



KAREN BUSSEN
simple stunning weddings







AUTHENTICALLY ROMANTIC

With its unique Mexican character and charm, Mazatlan is a popular choice for couples that want to exchange vows or enjoy a dreamy honeymoon in a tropical paradise.

Your big day in this destination

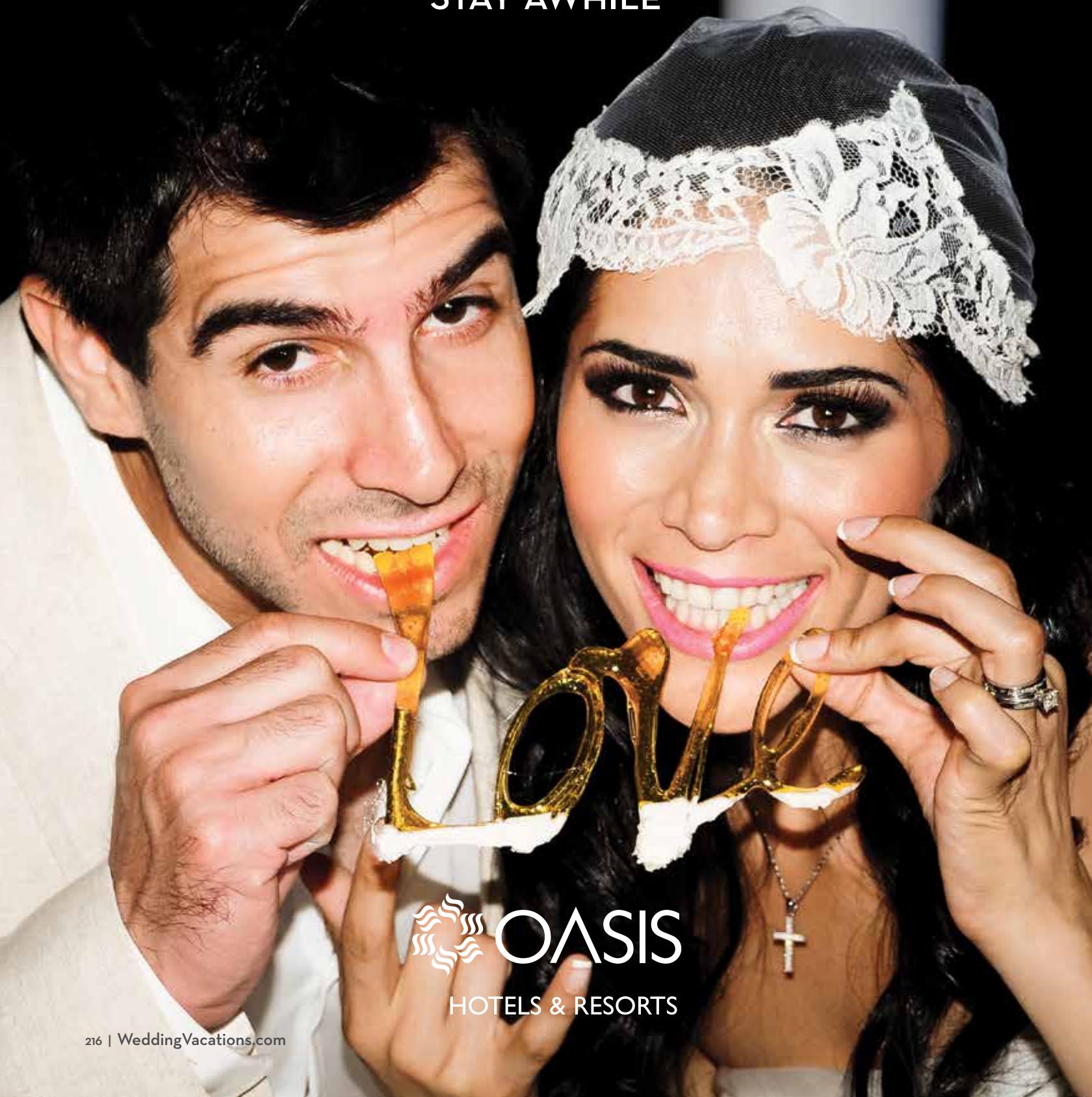
Known as the “Pearl of the Pacific,” Mazatlan is indeed a gem in the region, ideally suited for destination weddings and special occasions. Its colonial buildings offer the perfect backdrop for romantic photo ops, and the ritzy Golden Zone, lined for miles with lush palm trees and sandy beaches creates the perfect setting to exchange vows. For a memorable after-the-ceremony affair, the area’s countless luxury resorts, nightclubs and restaurants provide plenty of opportunities to celebrate in style.

A novel spot for newlyweds

As far as honeymoons go, Mazatlan has a wealth of activities and sights on offer that make it the perfect spot for a romantic interlude. Explore the many beaches, or stroll the Malecon (ocean boardwalk) – it's the perfect place to sightsee and stroll hand-in-hand. Historical monuments – like the Opera House built in 1874 – abound in the area, and are a must-see on any Mexican getaway. Shopaholics will delight in the rich selection of authentic arts and crafts produced by local artisans.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.

COME OVER
AND
STAY AWHILE



OASIS
HOTELS & RESORTS

We're cheeky, we're sensual, we're romantic, we're fun: we're everything you could ever want in a gorgeous beachfront property at Oasis Hotels & Resorts. Come over and stay awhile, with incredibly unique locations in the Mexico and the Caribbean, we'll bring out all the bells and whistles to ensure your stay is unforgettable. Lounge by a number of our free form pools, quench your thirst at our stellar bars, and let the gentle breeze of the sea kiss your skin.

Tying the knot? Let loose by letting us help you plan the wedding of your dreams; from a traditional affair overlooking the turquoise waters, to a dramatic union, Mayan-style, you and your sweetie are in good hands at Oasis. So, are you ready?



OASISLOVESU



BEYOND THE BUFFET



TASTE
THE WORLD
OF
FINE DINING

You don't have to be a foodie to love Oasis Hotels & Resorts - anyone with a sophisticated palate and a penchant for fine dining will be beyond impressed at our delectable offerings. Forget what you think you know about all inclusive restaurants - the boring, the bland, the blah. At Oasis you'll sample molecular gastronomy at its finest at top-rated Hacienda Benazuza, have a unique blind tasting experience at Black Hole, feast on the delights of Morocco at Schilla Bar, or pop into White Box for a gastro pub blast. And with the Oasis Runaway program, you really can have it all.





Spotlight

gravity-defying



A WORLD OF CULTURE AND FUN

OASIS
HOTELS & RESORTS

Spotlight



At Oasis Hotels & Resorts we're so much more than a pretty face; there's a world of culture and fun that's an integral part of the all inclusive experience. We take our entertainment seriously, especially at Grand Oasis Cancun, the Entertainment Resort, where guests are greeted in the lobby by gravity-defying acrobatic dancers, and magicians and comedians offer spontaneous fun. Choose from all kinds of entertainment, from headliner concerts to intimate cabarets, and everything in between.

Get ready for some hip-shaking, ground-stomping, head-banging fun this summer at the Oasis Hotels & Resorts with the legendary Jazz U, Ultra Electro Latin Beat Summer Electronic Music and Country Music Festivals, all part of our annual made-to-please summer music festival series. Whether you're a cool cat that wants to see the biggest names in jazz from Eddie Palmierei to Diego El Cigala, or want to sweat your stuff to the beat of mega-artists in electro-latino like Zion & Lennox and Candy Boy; or maybe line dance to country music sweetheart Matt Jordan; we've got all the glitz and glitter, all the culture and excitement; just bring your sense of wonder and we'll supply the rest.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons. 



Costa Rica is a quixotic retreat, featuring luxurious resorts fronted by fine beaches and stunning ocean views. Couples seeking a first-rate destination wedding experience will certainly find that this Central American nation boasts all the right romantic trimmings. Beyond the usual tropical fare, couples seeking something out of the ordinary will discover that Costa Rica offers an array of spots that fit the bill.

City sights. In Tamarindo, couples will discover that the city offers more than its party-hard reputation; it's a veritable epicurean experience, with restaurants serving up everything from traditional Costa Rican fare to exquisite Japanese cuisine.

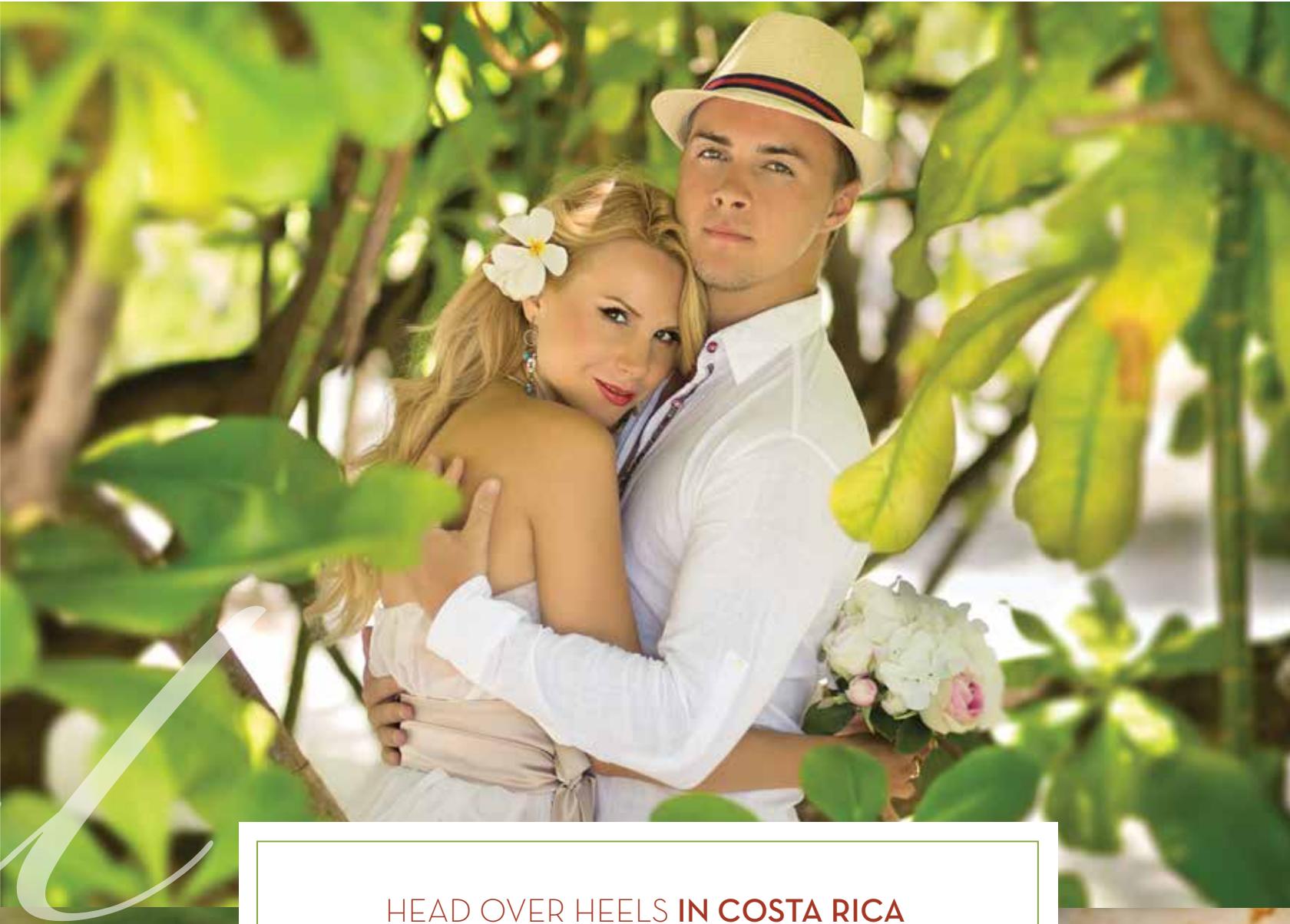
The tiny town of Guaitil, in the province of Guanacaste, is famous for its pre-Colombian, Chorotega-style pottery where

local potters use ancestral techniques to produce ceramics to sell to tourists and support the people of the village.

Countryside highlights. Palo Verde Park is a gorgeous natural area worth any group's while, with glorious wetlands through the Tempisque River - perfect for wildlife boat tours. What's more, the park's 45,500 acres of protected waters and vibrant forests are home to countless species of birds and animals.

Whether exploring the country's natural wonders, sampling fine cuisine or simply soaking up the sun beachside, couples venturing to Costa Rica will return home rejuvenated, happy and ready to embark on their new lives together.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



HEAD OVER HEELS **IN COSTA RICA**





WANT TO BE IN A
FUTURE ISSUE OF
WEDDING VACATIONS
MAGAZINE?

Paradisus Punta Cana
resort photographer.





Kiko Rivera Photography.



Photoshop Caribe

We're looking for one lucky couple to feature in the Real Weddings section in the next issue of Wedding Vacations magazine! If you believe your recent destination wedding is the stuff of fairytales, prove it by entering the Wedding Vacations Photo Contest on Facebook. Simply upload up to 10 of your most exceptional destination wedding pics, and tell us why you should win the coveted Real Weddings spot. Stay tuned to the weddingvacations.com Facebook page for more details, including our terms and conditions. The contest starts June 16, 2015.

You could win a trip for two to the Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall

In addition to a magazine feature, the selected winner will also be treated to a seven day vacation for two at the Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall in beautiful Montego Bay, Jamaica! Our wedding gift to you is courtesy of Sunwing Vacations and Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall.



HYATT ZILARA
ALL INCLUSIVE RESORTS





THE STARS WILL ALIGN ON YOUR BIG DAY

With properties gracing the shores of some of the most spectacular beaches in the Caribbean, IBEROSTAR Hotels & Resorts rolls out the red carpet for brides and grooms, offering them the opportunity to start their life together in paradise.

For an intimate affair on a sun-kissed beach beneath swaying palms, featuring twinkling lights and live local music, your personal wedding planner will be on-hand to manage all the fine details. Rest assured that with only one to two weddings booked per day, your once-in-a-lifetime event will receive the attention it deserves - giving you the chance to simply relax and enjoy your special day to the fullest.

Along with an impressive assortment of all inclusive dining options, each IBEROSTAR hotel offers well-appointed rooms with private balconies or terraces, expansive pools, and a range of activities to please every interest. From snorkelling and sailing, to spa services for two and 18 holes of golf on a stunning fairway, couples and their guests will find themselves delightfully entertained - and beaming with pride - on this wedding vacation!

MEXICO · DOMINICAN REPUBLIC · JAMAICA · CUBA

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.



Enjoy being a star



WEDDING
TREND
ALERT

COCKTAILS - SIGNATURE REQUIRED!

By April A. Potter

Personalized cocktails are a destination wedding trend that has recently appreciated in popularity, and a signature cocktail adds sophistication to any nuptial celebration. Here are some of the bevvies that are drawing the most attention down south.





A creative cocktail incorporating local ingredients or traditions provides a sensory connection to your destination that will last a lifetime. Whether you're choosing a custom blend of ingredients, or a traditional cocktail, personalizing your beverage by giving it a fun name and serving it at your reception will truly make your party unique.

If Cuba is your desired destination, you may be interested to know that this country revolutionized rum-making in the 1800s, and Cuban distilleries continue to be among the world's most recognized brands. Rum cocktails are a crowd pleaser and offer a multitude of delicious and colourful options such as daiquiris and mojitos. A Cuban staple, the importance of Cuban rum can easily be summed up by its most popular drink, the Cuba Libre, Spanish for "Free Cuba." A simple cocktail by ingredients alone (incorporating only lime, cola and rum), the Cuba Libre references a turbulent time in history, yet is poured into an elegant highball glass.



AS SWEET (AND STRONG) AS SUGAR



Just as sugarcane is primarily cultivated in tropical regions, by extension, so is rum. A versatile spirit with prolific historical significance, one accepted definition of the word rum is “strong.” On the day that your greatest love is affirmed – it does seem apropos that your signature cocktail contain a token of the strength that commitment is made of!

A wedding destined in Mexico also presents some enticing options. Cocktails made with tequila (from the blue agave plant indigenous to Mexico), such as the margarita and Tequila Sunrise, are both well-known favourites, and great for infusing your celebration with spirited zest. Another one of Mexico’s spirits that is now gaining in popularity - owing to the special tasting sessions being offered at select resorts - is mezcal, with its strong smoky flavour, it is made from the maguey plant (another variety of agave), and may stimulate some excellent conversation! Mezcal’s origins can be linked to a myth that deems it the “elixir of the gods,” as it is said that lightning once struck the agave plant and this is how the juice was cooked, released and discovered by the natives.

On the day that your greatest love is affirmed – it does seem apropos that your signature cocktail contain a token of the strength that commitment is made of!

In Panama, Seco Herrerano, or “Seco,” first arrived on the scene in the early 1900s as a spirit made from sugarcane that was distilled three times over. Seco has the versatility of rum or vodka, often replacing these spirits in Panamanian cocktails. Consumed on its own, or mixed with a variety of fruits and spirits, even sometimes prepared with coconut milk to create the famous Seco Con Vaca, incorporating this spirit into your cocktail is sure to leave a lasting impression on your guests.

When you’re in the Dominican Republic, it’s impossible to escape the allure of the truly unique Mamajuana or Mother Jane cocktail, which is a traditional blend of rum, red wine, honey, and dark rum soaked with twigs and bark. Other ingredients are typically added, such as cinnamon, raisins, strawberries, lemon juice and lime juice, making this another highly customizable option for your signature beverage. The name Mamajuana refers to the container that is traditionally used to prepare and store the beverage, a large rotund bottle with a short neck, covered in wicker.

Of course, a signature cocktail doesn’t have to be a potion of spirits. Luckily, these destinations are also known for their abundance of delicious, fresh and juicy fruit. As an option to your guests, consider serving “mocktails” that blend a variety of fresh fruit juices, and adding a little fizz with ginger ale or soda water. For a show-stopping alternative, consider having a coconut stand with a server cracking the fresh fruit for thirsty guests in need of a quenching drink in between dance tunes.

Cheers! 



COCKTAILS -
SIGNATURE
REQUIRED!



TOP 7 REASONS TO **UPGRADE** YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS ON YOUR **ROMANTIC GETAWAY**

By Bana Shami



You've spent months planning and weeks daydreaming about the day when you can jet off with your sweetie to a sun-soaked destination to celebrate a significant milestone together or for a quiet and intimate getaway. While there is no comparison to a cloudless sky, ocean breezes blowing through the palm trees, and the warm touch of sun on your skin, it would probably be fair to assume that upgrading your accommodation didn't even cross your mind. After all, you're probably thinking, "Why spend a little more on a better room when I'll be spending all day on the beach anyway?"

Most people think a room upgrade translates to a larger room, on a higher floor, with a picture-perfect view of the ocean. Well, you're more or less on the right track, but there are a few road signs that you may not be paying attention to on your way to planning your much-needed honeymoon or romantic interlude.

Here is a countdown of the top 7 reasons why a room upgrade may make the difference between night and day on your tropical getaway:

Heaven Deluxe Gold Room
Hard Rock Riviera Maya

Royalton Luxury Resorts



7. You may be celebrating a special occasion like an anniversary, honeymoon, a vow renewal, or simply the fact that you have a week or two off from work to spend with your sweetheart. Make sure to select the “Upgrade your room” option when you are booking online, most hotels (if not all) would be happy to throw in a few bonus features, if not a complete room upgrade if it’s available.

6. Want to wake up to the sounds of the waves gliding against the shoreline while you sip your morning coffee on the balcony overlooking the ocean? Honestly, who doesn’t like the thought of that? An upgrade to an ocean-view room category can fix that.

5. If romance is in the air, perhaps you’re looking to take long walks in the sand with your sweetheart. Some all inclusive resorts are quite large, and depending on your room category, you might have to travel a few extra steps to get to the beach. Upgrading your room could get you closer to the beach or the main amenities of the hotel. You might have to travel a few extra steps to get to the beach.



Beach Cabanas
at Chic Punta Cana



Swimup-Room at Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort

Le Blanc Spa Resort

4. Like the thought of having your own Jacuzzi, private pool, or swim-up pool access? All these top-notch features are easy to include in most luxury vacation packages.

3. If you're celebrating your honeymoon or anniversary, and are really hoping to enjoy some quality one-on-one time in the sun without getting sand kicked in your face by kids, there is hope. Check if there is an adults only section at your resort. While you're at it, slip in a request to have a private dinner on the beach!

2. Top off your vacation experience, and get the VIP treatment. Take advantage of some of the extra features that are often offered with room upgrades, such as welcome cocktails upon arrival, express check-in, discounts on spa services, unlimited à la carte dinners and late check-out.

1. Last but not least, the very best reason to upgrade is simple: Because you deserve it! It's time to pamper yourself, you've earned it. Some resorts offer room categories, which include butler service (both in-room, and on the beach), a pillow menu, an upgraded room service menu, an exclusive beach area, and even an outdoor Jacuzzi.

Once you start browsing online for your next milestone vacation, we have a feeling you won't hesitate before clicking on "Upgrade your room." Keep in mind that you truly can have it all on your tropical vacation when you give it a little boost. 

Royal Service - Melia Hotels International Cuba



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FALL IN LOVE
WITH CUBA'S
CHARM



Set among the lush, quixotic Cuban landscape, providing couples with endless options for weddings, honeymoons and special celebrations, the Gaviota Group of resorts are a true paradise.

Havana hotels. Hotel Kohly is set within Havana Forest in the 650-hectare Metropolitan Park, the city's largest green space. The Gaviota Quinta Avenida Habana is located in the residential area of Miramar, known for its shopping and cultural appeal. While honeymooning in Havana, couples are encouraged to check out the Malecón – the gorgeous 8-km boardwalk that winds along the beautiful coast of Havana.

Holguin resorts. Eco-conscious couples will enjoy their honeymoon at Playa Costa Verde resort. Bordered by mountains and the sparkling sea, this idyllic property has received accolades for its conservation initiatives. Playa Pesquero Hotel is an all inclusive retreat set amid a verdant landscape, and offers a peaceful natural environment. Beaches abound in Holguin, but with its mangrove swamps, hiking opportunities and the chance to swim with dolphins, Bahia de Naranjo Nature Park is a must-see.

Love in los Cayos. Playa Cayo Santa Maria is a secluded all inclusive resort located in Cayo Santa Maria. The beaches of Cayo Santa Maria are a tranquil home for hundreds of beautiful underwater species, making it an ideal site for diving and aquatic exploration. Playa Coco is another beautiful beachfront destination situated mere minutes away from the second largest coral reef in the world in Cayo Coco.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.





AN OCCASION IN A DESTINATION TO REMEMBER

When it comes to a destination wedding or honeymoon, there are a few necessary elements that will make the big day absolutely flawless: Clear blue skies, warm ocean breezes, an impeccable shoreline and outstanding scenery.

There are resorts, tucked away on an unspoiled sandbar just off the coast of the Caribbean Sea, that can provide all of that, and more. Parnassus Resort & Spa offers a selection of Cancun's premier adults only and family friendly, all inclusive resorts.

From intimate oceanfront ceremonies to gala receptions, rehearsal dinners, bridal showers and bachelor parties, couples and their guests will appreciate the personalized service and sophisticated, yet casual vibe, at these magnificent properties.

Fine dining is always the perfect complement to a romantic endeavour, and Golden Parnassus Resort & Spa offers a variety of international cuisines. Fall in love over shared bites of skillfully-prepared dishes that run the gamut from Asian to Italian, French to fresh local fare. Enjoy expertly-mixed cocktails and captivating views from every seat.

A beach resort solely devoted to "in the moment" lifestyles, Great Parnassus Resort & Spa ensures that every minute of your stay - from the first to the last - is unforgettable and absolutely flawless. If you're feeling adventurous, a night out may be in the cards, since most of the bars are open until 2 a.m.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

TRENDING *Wrestled*



By Bettie Bradley

Bettie Bradley, editor of *Today's Bride* magazine and author of *The Wedding Expert* weighs in on the season's hottest styles and haircare tips for honeymooners



There is no perfect hairstyle that works for everyone. But there is a perfect hairstyle for you. This will be dependent on a combination of the health of your hair, the length, the colour and the current trends.

"This season, there is a celebration of long hair. It may be slicked back, piled high or worn long in loose waves," notes Bradley. She says that the ultimate in sophistication is a sleek, low bun tucked in at the nape of the neck. This is especially dramatic if it is done with a strong centre part and completed with a glossy shine spray. This elegant, controlled style is an invitation to choose a show-stopping veil combined with a great hair accessory.



The ultimate in glamour is long hair with loose waves. This puts hair front and centre, and is totally romantic. Bradley says, "The hair becomes the star, so avoid large or extravagant hairpieces. You don't need a veil because the hair, itself, is the accessory." She says that this season's emphasis on length is not to suggest that short hair takes second place. In fact, short styles have their own message: They have become edgier.

"The pixie cut has evolved," says Bradley. "While it is still boyish, it is also more feminine and sometimes includes a lift at the top of the head or long bangs with shorter sides, depending on the shape of your face." The pixie needs to be cut with lots of layers to give it definition.



Medium length hair also has a fresh look. It is being styled in unstructured bobs, which may be either wavy or straight, depending on the basic nature of your hair. Bradley says that shags are gaining in popularity, too, and while they are intended to look as if you just got out of bed and still manage to look great, they are less messy than in the past. This free-and-easy style has a secret: It still starts with a great cut.

TAKE CARE WHEN TRAVELLING

If you are heading off on a beach holiday for your honeymoon, remember that your hair needs just as much protection from the sun as your skin. Bradley remarks, "I wish more people would wear hats when they are in the hot sun. They don't understand that UV light can degrade hair pigment by bleaching it."

A hat or head scarf is the best protection, and using shampoo, conditioners and hair repair products that are especially developed to protect against heat is a good idea.

"A woman's hair has always been an integral part of her beauty. It deserves to be pampered and protected," Bradley concludes. 



LET YOUR LOVE BLOSSOM AT BLAU HOTELS AND RESORTS

Plant the seeds for a romantic and unforgettable wedding at Blau Hotels and Resorts.

Guests of all ages can enjoy an array of fun activities and sports or simply relax on the beach beneath the swaying palm trees. Children will be entertained and engaged with fun games and activities at the Blaudi Club while adults will be dazzled by exceptional evening entertainment and spectacular shows.

Blau Hotels offers a variety of unique, luxurious properties where your romantic union can take root under the tropical sun. Choose from a multitude of packages, including complimentary wedding* and vow renewals. Whether you exchange your vows surrounded by a lush, verdant lagoon, by the azure waters of the Caribbean, or in the elegant settings of the resort, let your love blossom with a wedding at the Blau Hotels.

For more details, contact your travel agent or connect with an experienced wedding consultant at weddingvacations.com - your source of inspiration for destination weddings & honeymoons.

*Restrictions may apply.



OPEN YOUR
HEART AND
RELAX YOUR
SOUL IN
ST. MAARTEN

ROMAANTIC

ST. MAARTEN

Welcome to St. Maarten, an island gem in the Caribbean that offers lovers a dual-cultured experience with both Dutch and French influences. There are numerous reasons why St. Maarten is one of the top destinations for weddings and honeymoons. With a variety of things to see and do, this tiny slice of paradise offers visitors memorable experiences that both open the heart and relax the soul.

Sink your toes into 37 miles of 37 glorious sandy beaches, or sink your teeth into delicious fare in this culinary capital of the Caribbean that showcases a beautiful blend of Dutch, French and Creole cuisines.

On the island of St. Maarten, boredom is not an option. 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, the possibilities for an unforgettable celebration for you and your loved ones are limitless.

Ask your travel agent or visit weddingvacations.com for more inspiration on this destination.



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Brides and grooms can take advantage of 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.

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. Plaza Premium lounges are available at the Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton airports only. Conditions apply. Visit weddingvacations.com for more details.

Play in the Sand Celebrate in Style



BOSS
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A tuxedo and the little black dress are just the ticket to celebrate a late night on the town.

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