

TREND ALERT

MIGHTY HANDFUL

Fresh-flower bouquets are gorgeous, but if you're craving something more travel ready or longer lasting, try one of these quirky alternatives.

Pinwheels These lightweight paper creations make a playful statement. Artist Kellee Nelson of myrule42.com makes 17-inch-diameter custom pinwheels starting at \$15 each. Also available: pinwheel boutonnieres, corsages, hair clips and cake toppers.

Hand Fans For something pretty, practical and reusable, opt for hand fans in an array of colors. Want more drama? Dress them up with ribbons or fresh flowers. Spanish-import company lands-faraway.com offers a wide array of specialty fans, from printed lace to painted wood, in a rainbow of colors from \$7.50 each.

Brooch Bouquets Find 50 to 60 vintage brooches on eBay, at local antique stores and in your grandma's jewelry box. Then have them crafted into a unique bouquet that's sure to become a treasured heirloom. Amanda Heer of fantasyfloraldesigns.com builds bouquets for \$350, including domestic shipping.
— *Erika Hueneke*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SHAWNNA HERRING; LOUISA LOPEZ/THE LOFT PHOTOGRAPHY; JERET SLACK PHOTOGRAPHY



DRINK THIS
haute cocktails

No offense to mojitos and cosmos, but today's signature cocktails need a little more pizzazz to impress guests. "A specialty drink is a small detail that makes a big impression at your event," says mixologist Charlotte Voisey of William Grant & Sons spirits company. Here are her tips for making your celebratory drink memorable.

- **BE INSPIRED** by flavors you and your groom love. Creating a drink your guests can associate you with gives the cocktail more personality. For example, if you're known to have a weakness for chocolate, serve chocoatinis.
- **USE LOCAL FLAVORS** to tie in your destination and season — think tropical fruits like coconut and watermelon for a Caribbean wedding or figs and apples for fall nuptials in New York.
- **CHOOSE SOMETHING UNISEX**, such as a Flame of Love martini — a flaming drink originally created for crooner Dean Martin. Or go with his and hers cocktails that complement your theme: At a *Mad Men*-style soiree, serve White Russians to the ladies and old-fashioned to the gents.
- **INCORPORATE YOUR COLOR SCHEME** with a flavored liqueur like Bols, which comes in a rainbow of hues you can choose from to match your decor. — *Ivette Manners*

GREAT TOOL

wedding webcasts

Doing a live Web feed of your ceremony for guests back home seemed like a great idea when it was first introduced, but technical issues made the process better in theory than practice. Now, thanks to new technology, wedding webcasts are easier and more reliable than ever. Broadband wireless connections (and even live high-def streaming) now make it possible to broadcast weddings from almost any ceremony site, from ballroom to beach. (Note: It's still easier stateside than abroad, where broadband isn't as readily available and Internet access varies by country.) Companies like I Do Stream and Webcast My Wedding offer an onsite video pro to capture the big event, or as a cheaper alternative, go DIY: Bring your own video camera, computer and USB video-capture device, and they'll provide a personalized wedding webpage, Evite and easy-to-use broadcast software. You can even post a link to your webcast on Facebook for friends to view live. *DIY rentals from \$125; onsite videographer from \$600; packages include live technical support for up to 50 viewers.* — *Brooke Showell*

COOL IDEA

GREETINGS FROM ...

We're loving the trend of save-the-dates in the form of vintage postcards — a great way to get guests fired up for departure. These DIY tips from Melinda Morris, owner of Brooklyn, New York-based paperie Lion in the Sun, also earn our stamp of approval.

SOURCE Ask your venue if they have old postcards of the establishment, or search the Web and create your own. Worried about copyrights? Relax — many vintage postcards are royalty-free and can be reproduced for free; for all postcards printed before 1942, the copyrights have expired.

CREATE Cast your own photo in a black-and-white or sepia hue to capture a vintage feel. Be sure to ask your printing press for authentic postcard graphics on the back.

PERSONALIZE Consider hand-writing the text and then scanning it in so it looks like you

filled out the postcard for each of your guests.

GET INSPIRED Visit lioninthesunps.com for ideas, or contact Morris directly to order her original vintage-postcard creations. *Custom designs for an hourly rate, circa-1940 postcards \$3.50 each.* — *Sarah Larson*



COMPUTER-SCREEN INSET: SHAWN STARR; COCKTAILS: TETRA IMAGES/CORBIS



TRY THIS

WOW VOWS

Nothing gives your ceremony a more heartfelt, personal feel than writing your own vows. Here, Boston-based interfaith minister Kaia Stern, who officiates at destination weddings everywhere from Mexico to Mali, offers tips for traveling couples.

Reference your destination in your vows. "Your choice to gather your beloved community for a destination wedding reflects your willingness to seek new horizons. Embrace that, and be clear about the meaning of this chosen place."

If working with a minister from afar, reach out well in advance. "Crafting all aspects of the ceremony is a joint effort." Even so, consider cross-cultural variables. "If a

minister doesn't get back to you immediately, don't feel slighted — remember that Internet access in many countries can be spotty."

Be disciplined, despite the long wedding to-do list. "Make time to reflect together and independently, to be still — listen to yourself and each other in crafting meaningful vows."

Stern is available for ceremonies across the globe; rates from \$100 per hour. — Baz Dreisinger

CUSTOM IDEA

color me fab

You're already designing a faraway fete — why not go ahead and design your own bridesmaid jewelry too? With the Kendra Scott Jewelry Color Bar online tool, customizing wedding-day baubles is completely effortless and downright fun. Here's how it works: Choose your style (there are 12 options for earrings and five for necklaces, plus one chic cocktail ring) and whether you want gold or silver settings. Then select your jewels and drag them into place. Use as many shades as you want — there are 20 brightly colored stones in all. (Need help? The designer suggests multiple color pairings for each style.) With stones like turquoise, emerald jade, pink jade and cognac quartz, it's simple to echo the tropical seas, palms and flowers of popular wedding locales like the Caribbean, Hawaii and Mexico. *From \$50. — Melissa G. Lamkin*



COOL SERVICE

celluloid celebration

Remember being fascinated by home movies flickering on an old projector? That's the inspiration for the latest trend in wedding videos from these three companies, which capture your memories with 1965 Super 8 mm film.

Joel Serrato Films Like director Jean Renoir, Serrato gets a natural look by filming outdoors as much as possible. He'll even loan you a vintage camera with a few rolls of Super 8 so you can create your own honeymoon flick — included in your final wedding video or edited individually. *From \$6,250, including eight hours of wedding-day coverage, a 15- to 35-minute feature film, and photographer accommodations and domestic flights.*

Epic Motion Creator Ryan Koral takes pride in his same-day edit, a montage of wedding-day footage that can be played at your reception. Feature presentation? Preparation, ceremony, cocktail hour and you! (Reception footage can be added to the final product.) *From \$3,000, including daylong coverage, a five- to 15-minute feature film, a 60- to 90-second trailer and same-day edit.*

I Do Films Co-owners Matt Buckman and Lori Roche film your wedding day in a crisp high-def format and draw on their love of music to find a soundtrack that fits you; they've even used indie bands like She & Him to complement their films' oldies vibe. *From \$7,500, including eight hours of wedding-day coverage, a 30-minute feature film, a webpage with day-of highlights and the original Super 8 stock reel in a film can. — SL*

WOW VOWS: ANDREW REILLY; ILLUSTRATION: IMAGEZOO/CORBIS



GET THIS

make a wish

We don't have anything against the classic guest book. But with so many creative ways for guests to share their wedding wishes — from shells to stones — why not have a little fun with it? Our favorite iteration of late: the **HELLO HANNA WISHING TREE**, a heavyweight-paper kit that comes with hangtags and flower cutouts on which your loved ones can write their well wishes for you. Additional flower and bird cutouts are available in blue, red, silver, white, green and pink. The result: an adorable 19½-inch-tall centerpiece that travels well — just fold it flat for easy transport. *Tree kit \$39.95; birds and flowers, packs of 20, \$5.95 each; tags, packs of 40, \$8.95 each. — EH*

KEY TIPS

name game

If you plan to change your last name after you wed, the process can be time-consuming and downright complex. And for destination brides with multiple travel documents, it can be even more confusing. We turned to Danielle Tate, founder of MISSNOWMRS.COM, for her advice on making the big switch.

- Getting married legally at home and symbolically overseas? Plan your justice-of-the-peace wedding at least six months prior to allow time to change identification documents and book travel in your married name. If you wait until less than three months prior, book travel in your maiden name to avoid airport problems.
- Before an international wedding, make sure the marriage certificate will be recognized officially back home. Check with Social Security (800-772-1213).
- Order extra certified copies of your marriage certificate so you can file forms simultaneously.
- Look into your state's laws. Some states won't allow you to take your maiden name as your middle name, and some require your marriage certificate to be authenticated when you tie the knot overseas.
- Don't want the hassle? For \$29.95, MissNowMrs.com offers name-change instructions and printable forms, from voter registration to Social Security. — *Katie Morell*





FUN SERVICE

moving pictures

“All the groomsmen dropped their trousers,”

Brian Miller says of his favorite spontaneous wedding moment captured on film by his California-based company, **LA PHOTO PARTY**. A mobile “photo booth without the booth,” this one-walled white backdrop is open to the party and fits up to 15 guests in a single frame. The team of three interactive photogs tends to inspire zany poses, from



handstands to group hugs. Want to amp up the fun? On request, they’ll bring up to \$100 worth of props themed around any interest, from horseback riding to diving. Photos are printed on the spot in eight seconds. Bonus: The company’s new Live-Link station allows guests to upload the photos from giant touch screens to their email, Facebook or Twitter accounts live from your event — so even those who couldn’t make it can share in the fun.

From \$1,825 for three hours (mention this article for 10 percent off). — Brooke Morton

TOP TIPS

dress quest

Dress shopping is one of the most exciting parts of wedding planning, but destination dos come with distinct gown considerations. Here are five must-knows from Ursula Guyer and Stacy Senechalle, owners of salon whiteChicago and website whitexchange.com.

- 1 Consider your setting. If you’re having a beach wedding, you may want to opt for a tea-length (or shorter) gown to keep cool. Ocean breezes can be an issue; keep things simple by forgoing the veil and accenting your hairstyle with a sparkly headband or fresh blooms pinned in strategic places.
- 2 Mind the temperature. Heavier silk satin is great for a cooler climate; a lighter, flowing fabric like silk organza is optimal for a tropical evening.
- 3 Time it right. Let the seamstress know when you’re leaving — not just your wedding date. You’ll want any alterations completed in time for your trip.
- 4 Fight wrinkles. Fabrics like chiffon and lace travel well, while others, such as silk taffeta, crease easily. Play it safe by packing your dress with tissue paper in a carry-on garment bag, and make sure your hotel has a steamer for on-location touch-ups.
- 5 Trust your gut. Everyone reacts differently when they find “the one.” Go with your intuition; it won’t steer you wrong. — SL



SWEET IDEA

goodness squared

Food favors are a perennial hit. Bonus: These three also boast a conscience!



ALL JARRED UP

GOOD FOR YOU These desserts come ready to eat in half-pint jars; just heat and enjoy. Flavors are updated seasonally and have names like Peachy Keen, Very Very Berry, How Do You Like Them Apples and Pear-ed Together.

GOOD FOR THE EARTH Jars are reusable or recyclable. Plus, baker Teri Hiles uses only in-season ingredients and as many all-natural and organic ingredients as possible. *Ships domestically; from \$6.*

EDWARD MARC CHOCOLATIER

GOOD FOR YOU This 96-year-old family-owned company specializes in custom wedding treats, from chocolate menus and medallions to decadent truffles in flavors like raspberry, amaretto, champagne and espresso.

GOOD FOR THE EARTH Twenty percent of each online sale can be donated to the partner charity of your choice. *Ships domestically and internationally; from \$5.*

BAKING FOR GOOD

GOOD FOR YOU Taking the bake-sale concept to the Web, this virtual bake shop offers brownies and other yummy snacks. Our fave: the hand-iced sugar cookies; choose from beach, Western or bridal designs, or go custom.

GOOD FOR THE EARTH Ingredients are all-natural and organic, and 15 percent of each order is donated to any nonprofit of the buyer’s choice. *Ships domestically; one dozen from \$30. — EH*

DRESS: COURTESY BRIDES A LA MODE; FOOD FAVORS: DIANE RICE

WEAR THIS
well-suited

Since 1941, bright-eyed brides have walked into New York City's famed Kleinfeld Bridal in search of their dream dress. Today, the iconic

bridal salon is a household name, thanks to its starring role on TLC's hit show *Say Yes to the Dress*. And with the recent introduction of Kleinfeld Men, the guys can get their fashion on too. Located on the lower level, Kleinfeld Men is reminiscent of an English-style men's club, where private consultants steer grooms through suits, tuxes and more, in a variety of

styles, fabrics and colors (including more than 50 shades of gray). Your guy can choose from the salon's own Kleinfeld Men brand and the Hugo Boss collection or customize with the fine fabrics and quality tailoring for which Kleinfeld is known. For the finishing touch, accents like ties, pocket squares, cummerbunds, ascots and cuff links are also available.
— Tara Bradley



WEB TIP
READY, SET, REGISTER

When it comes to wedding gifts, destination brides were among the first to turn to online registries (who wants to lug a bunch of gifts home from a far-off locale?). And when it comes to online registries, Wishpot.com is the most comprehensive we've found — letting you create a wish list of items from any Web store and even allowing guests to contribute toward tons of larger expenses.

BIG-TICKET ITEMS

Guests can chip in for furniture, a TV or even a car.

CHARITIES Ask your loved ones to donate to your favorite nonprofit.

HONEYMOONS Request vacation packages or single activities like massages, tours and romantic dinners.

HOUSES If you're saving for a home, guests can help with your down payment.

MONEY Not sure what you want just yet? Just request cash. When you're using a site this clever, no one will think you're tacky. — EH

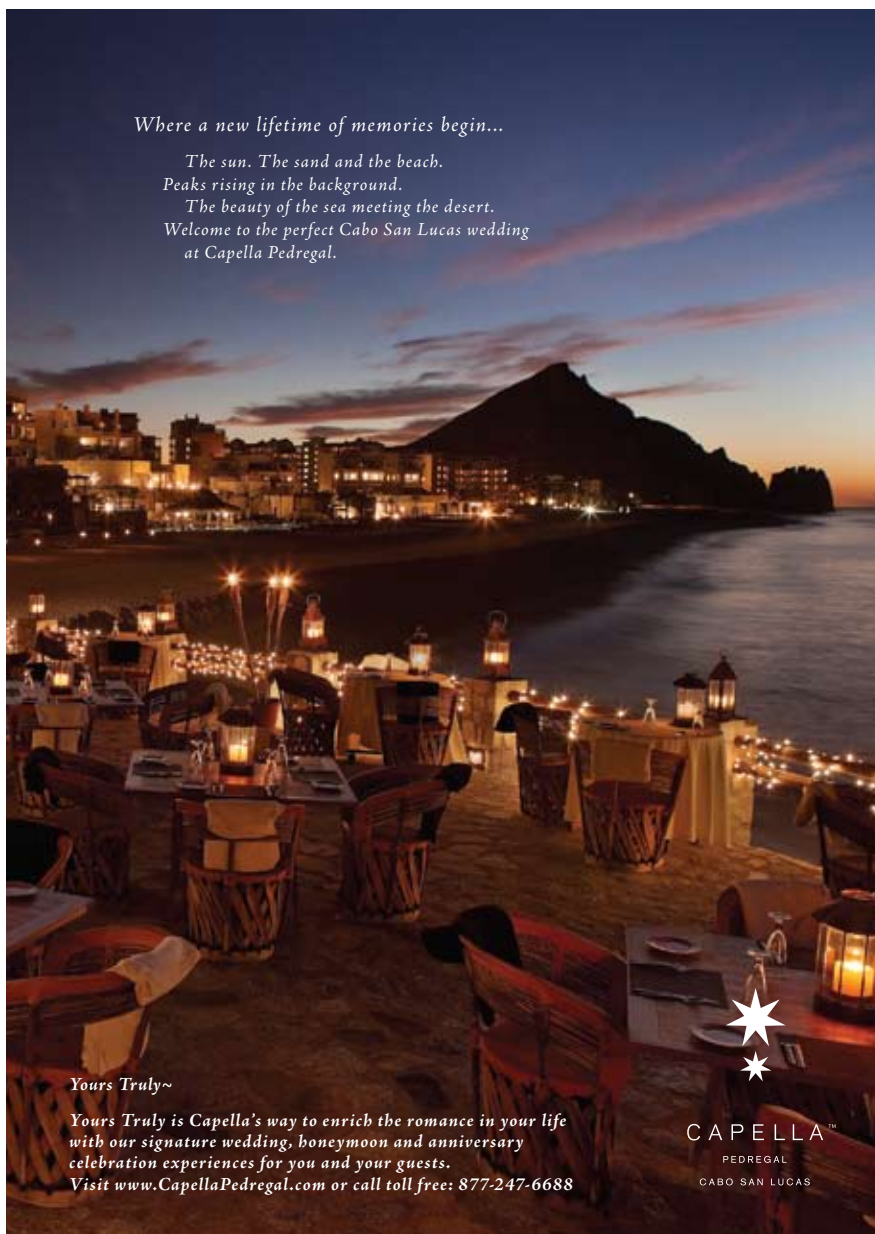
FUN FACT
what couples are registering for on wishpot.com*



*Total exceeds 100 percent, as some couples register in multiple categories.

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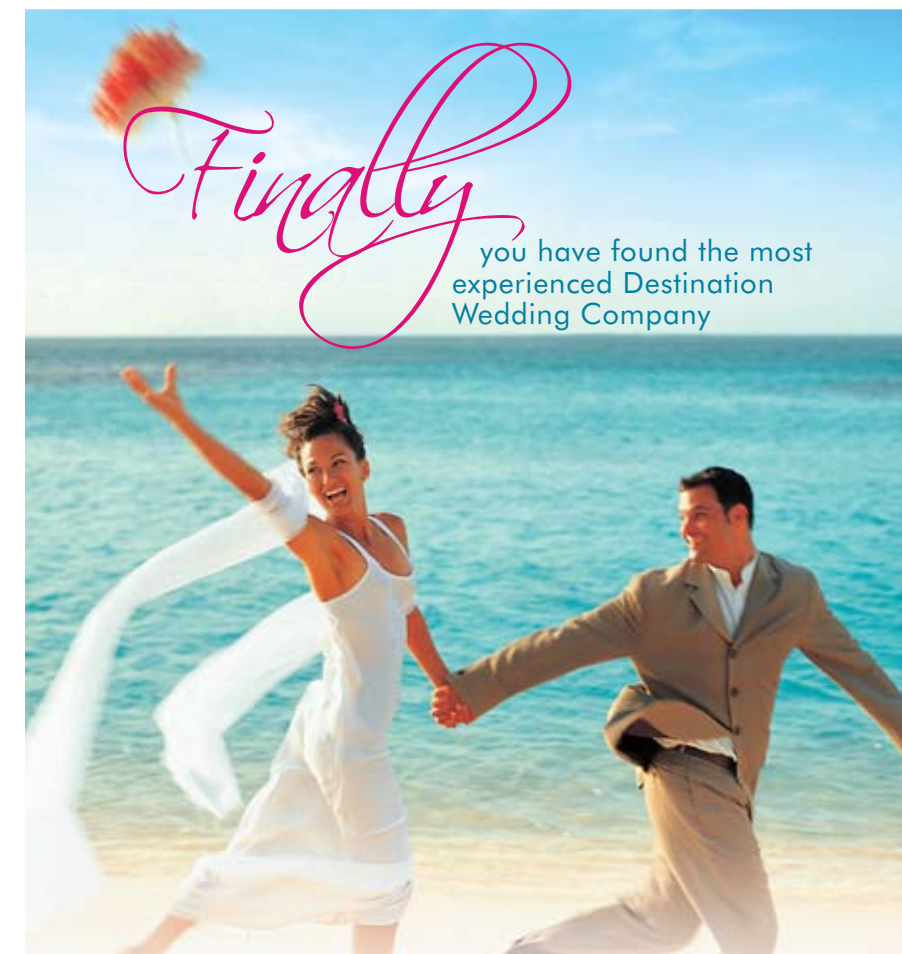
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HOT TREND

vying venues

Looking for a unique wedding setting? "Private estates allow brides to be really creative," says Julie Pryor of Pryor Events in Los Angeles. How do these venues compare to resorts? Read on to decide. — IM

	Choose a private estate if ...	Choose a resort if ...
VIBE	You're looking for total intimacy and privacy.	You're looking for convenience and complete service.
PLANNING	You want the option of bringing in your own caterer and alcohol, which can be a money saver.	You want to use an onsite wedding coordinator and catering manager, often complimentary.
DETAILS	You like handpicking and personalizing all the wedding-day details, from the chairs to the china.	You like having access to in-house linens, dinnerware and more so you won't have to use as many rentals.
AMENITIES	You want one-of-a-kind lodging (when available) and cozy common areas you'll have to yourselves.	You need an array of guest rooms, activities, restaurant options and lively meeting spots.
VENUES	You like having unlimited access to unique grounds, usually on a smaller footprint.	You like having a spread-out selection of approved possibilities, such as a beach and a ballroom.



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