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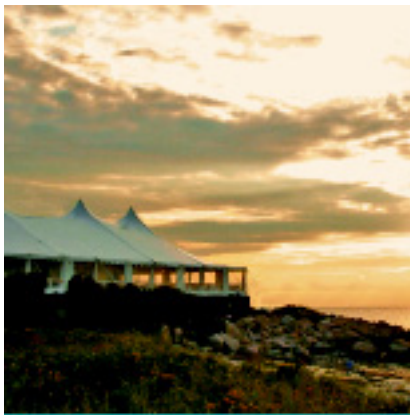


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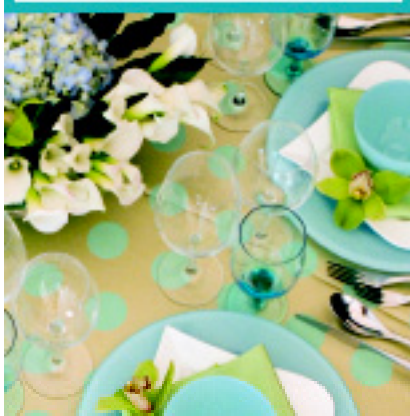


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FROM THE EDITOR

HAVE IT YOUR WAY



PLANNING A WEDDING CAN BE TAXING, to say the least. The details are too numerous to count; it's a wonder anyone manages to keep it all straight without spontaneously combusting. And with a record number of our friends getting engaged in the past year, we can't help but feel simultaneously elated and a little dizzy on behalf of so many brides-to-be. In fact, getting married isn't all that different from putting together a wedding magazine: You try your best to plan every last detail, make a few inevitable changes, and roll with the punches—and in the end, everything works out just as you'd hoped.

But whether you're planning a wedding or a magazine, it shouldn't all be logistics and checklists; finding inspiration is what makes the process enjoyable. And thankfully, it's everywhere these days, from the practical (smartphone apps for ring shopping) to the unexpected (Needham couple Jon and Caroline Kleiman's flash-mob wedding in the Prudential Center last December). But wherever it comes from, the point is to celebrate with a style that is unmistakably *you*. Take Kate Middleton, who gave a subtle yet appropriate nod to Princess Diana when she ditched the word "obey" from her wedding vows earlier this year.

Ultimately, your wedding should be exactly the way you want it—which is what we here at *Boston Weddings* hope to help you achieve. In this issue, you'll find breathtaking gowns and cakes to match ["TAILOR-MADE," PAGE 82], as well as bouquets paired with brilliant baubles ["ICED OUT," PAGE 100]. We've also got advice from our city's wedding gurus [THE EXPERTS, PAGE 25] and ideas for luxurious New England "minimoons" ["CLOSE CONNECTIONS," PAGE 68]. And because no detail is too small, we found some fabulous eye candy, in the form of chic clutches ["A STAR IS WORN," PAGE 20] and locally made stationery ["JUST YOUR TYPE," PAGE 22].

So here's to celebrating new beginnings—and, of course, to inspiration; we hope you find plenty of it on the following pages. Make sure you send us the photos and share the results!

Anne Vickman

weddings@bostonmagazine.com



Good

• ||| FASHION AND STYLE FOR THE BRIDE

A STAR IS WORN

Looking to add a shining final touch to a breathtaking dress? Hint: It's in the bag.

FROM TOP Judith Leiber pouchette with Austrian crystals, \$2,995, Neiman Marcus; Debra Moreland Is Paris "San Francisco Shogun" satin baguette with Swarovski crystal and pearl accents, \$570, Cristina's.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HORNICK/RIVLIN
FASHION STYLING BY CALLISTA WILSON
PROP STYLING BY JOJI GOTO



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Maria Elena satin clutch with rhinestones, \$890, L'élite Bridal Boutique; Diane von Furstenberg leather "Harper" clutch with detachable tassel, \$450, and Eric Javits leather wristlet with chain handle, \$185, both Neiman Marcus; Whiting & Davis bubble-mesh baguette with Swarovski crystals and pearls, \$275, and Inge Christopher metallic leather clutch with geometric Swarovski crystals, \$298, both M. Flynn.

FOR DETAILS, SEE THE REGISTRY, PAGE 123.



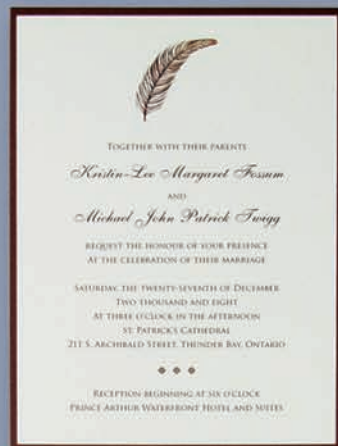
BRIGHT IDEA

A vintage stamp provided the template for this destination-wedding announcement, which brought to mind the exotic setting with a duo of vivid colors. \$500 FOR 100 CARDS (INCLUDING ENVELOPES), ALBERTINE PRESS.



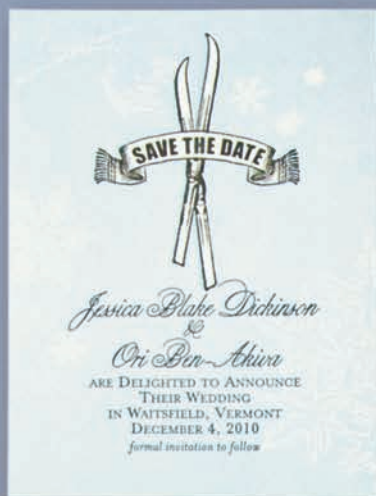
WELL MATCHED

This classic invitation echoed details of the couple's '40s-style celebration, from the color (it complemented the bridesmaid dresses) to the feathers in the centerpieces. \$485 FOR 125 CARDS (INCLUDING ENVELOPES), POSH PEACOCK.



JUST YOUR TYPE

Whether you're planning a tropical blowout or a classic ballroom fete, these locally made cards will help you share your announcement in style. BY TANYA PAI



WINTRY MIX ↑

Made on a vintage hand-cranked letterpress, this accordion-fold design incorporated the bride and groom's favorite things (skiing and their dogs), and matched the bride's ensemble. \$2,600 FOR 100 CARDS (INCLUDING ENVELOPES), GRAPEVINE PAPERIE.



↑ CITY SLICK

The location was the star of this card, which included elements of the Boston skyline—the perfect balance of urban and elegant. STARTING AT \$2 PER CARD (INCLUDING ENVELOPES), WICKED BRIDE STATIONERY.



CLASS ACT

A graceful font anchored this digitally designed save-the-date, letterpressed on 100 percent cotton paper. The result? A crisp, sophisticated, and totally timeless reminder. \$375 FOR 100 CARDS (INCLUDING ENVELOPES), GOOSEFISH PRESS.

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.





Experts

• ||| TIPS, TRICKS, AND ADVICE



THE VISAGE VIRTUOSO

Your dress is stunning, your hair is divine...but it's all for naught without the linchpin of bridal beautification: your makeup. Becoming the picture of perfection means getting some face time with a true professional.

BY AUSTYN ELLESE MAYFIELD

Your wedding day is not (we repeat: *not*) the time to call in your sister's best friend's cousin to do your makeup. Unless, of course, she just so happens to be an award-winning makeup artist like Dani Wagener Braho (who got married this past March). In her 15 years in the beauty industry, Braho has gained national recognition and become one of the area's most-sought-after face-makers. When she's not doing high-profile editorial photo shoots, working with celebs, or giving one-on-one technique lessons, she wields her brush to make some magic happen for brides-to-be.

What's the best way to find a makeup artist?

Word of mouth. Don't just rely on blogs. When I get new bridal clients I have them come in, meet me, and have their makeup done for another occasion. I make them up for a night out, for their engagement party, or for their bridal shower. That way they get to try it. If they leave loving it, then they trust what I do and feel comfortable with me. Then we don't have to figure out exactly what we're going to do the day of. >>

TIPS

WAGENER BRAHO'S MUST-HAVE PRODUCTS FOR FLAWLESS BIG-DAY BEAUTY.



NARS LIP GLOSS

With an assortment of pretty colors, this product is long-lasting and has a silky, nonsticky texture. \$24, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE.



SHU UEMURA PAINTING LINER

Nothing on Earth stays on as well or is as waterproof (which you'll need to stand up to the inevitable tears during the ceremony). \$25, SHU UEMURA.



BOSCIA GREEN TEA BLOTTING LINENS

These lightweight papers keep shine at bay and have a clean scent. \$10, SEPHORA.

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.

So you don't subscribe to the idea of multiple wedding-day makeup trials?

I think 9 out of 10 brides wake up on their wedding day feeling a certain way, and it's not how they felt a year ago. A lot of brides decide they want to go a little bit more glam that day. Skin tones change from fall to winter and colors can look different, so I don't think it's about figuring out exactly what you're going to look like. It's about finding the person you trust to get you to where you want to be on that day. But I'll do as many trials as a client wants.

What's the most important element of face-making?

Balance. There needs to be an appropriate balance of color throughout. I don't think you can say, "I want to just focus on my eyes"—that doesn't mean we won't do cheek or lip color. >>

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Sturbridge, Mass.



My chair is set up several feet away from the mirror so people can see the balance of their makeup, not what their face looks like from two inches away.

What do you focus on for brides who prefer to go au naturel?

For a very natural look, it's all about the details. I've had brides who have literally worn almost nothing. It's about the lash line; it's about the skin being flawless and making their features stand out. There's a big misconception that you need to wear a ton of makeup in order to look good. It's true that if I put a little more makeup on, you might look fresher in your photos, but it's more about what makes you feel comfortable.

Airbrushing has become popular over the past few years. Is it the best option?

I think it is. It's flawless. I like to do a custom-blended foundation, and you can't achieve that with just one bottle. That's what first drew me to airbrushing, because it allows me to customize color on the spot. The other benefit is that it has a tiny bit of silicone in it, so it sits more on the surface of the skin and doesn't leave a cakey look. It's the best thing to cover acne. It helps absorb oil as the day goes on, and it just doesn't budge. I've had brides in 90-degree weather whose makeup looked the same at midnight.

Should the rest of the bridal party have their makeup done?

It always comes down to budget. Usually I tell people to worry about themselves and a core group of people—like Mom, the maid of honor, and a sister. It can be less chaotic that way, as well. My maximum is six people, because I don't like anybody to feel rushed. If there are more than six, I bring another artist with me. Smaller groups eliminate some of the chaos.

When do you think it's right to go for bold colors in bridal makeup?

If it's something you're already comfortable with. If you already rock red lips and people have seen you in a red lip, then go for it. But if you've never worn a red lip in your life, don't do it on your wedding day.

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THE INSIDER TRADERS

Planning a wedding requires a wealth of resources. Why not recruit the assistance of two ladies who know how to work the aisle from every angle?

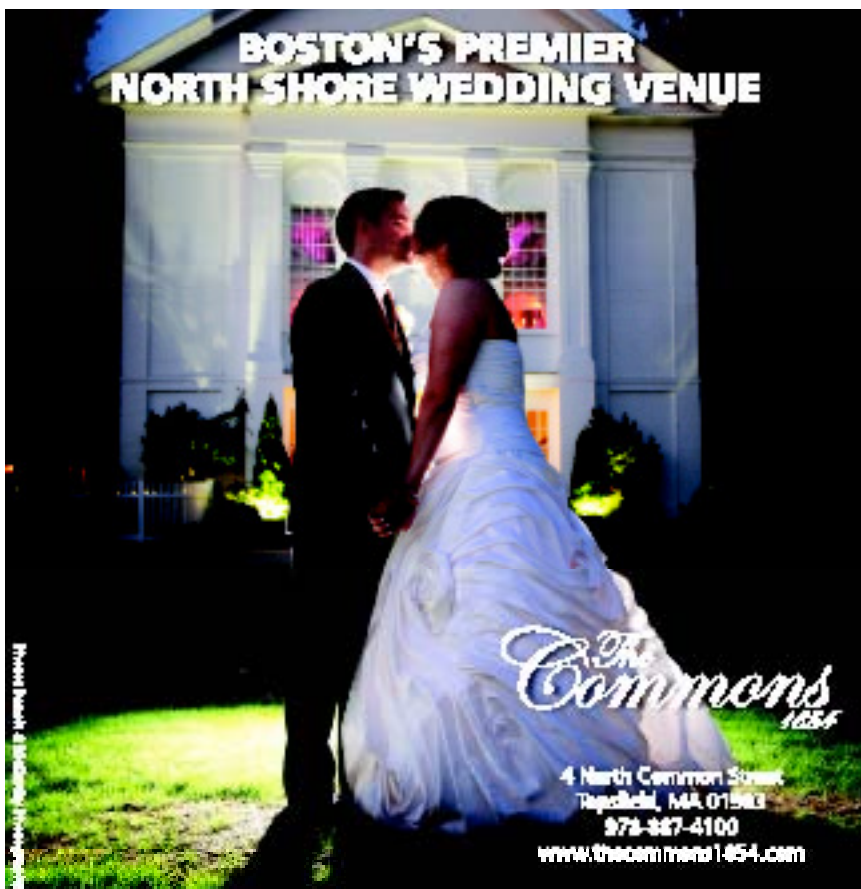
When Kerri Bruneau met Eleni Granas, it was a match made in heaven. And as much as they love their respective husbands, with the opening of the Boston Bridal Lounge on Newbury Street, Bruneau (pictured at left) and Granas have embarked on an exciting partnership of their own. The two have plenty of firsthand experience in the industry (both worked at bridal publications), and are putting that knowledge to good use by sharing their Rolodexes with area brides. A.E.M.

So what is the Boston Bridal Lounge, exactly?

KERRI BRUNEAU: It's a wedding library and showroom—one-stop shopping for trusted resources, all under one roof.

ELENI GRANAS: The space is beautified by all of our vendor members. So for instance, Winston Flowers brings fresh floral arrangements, our linen companies are dressing the tables; everything that's incorporated into the design is from one of our vendors, so the space is very inspirational.

KB: It's a really nice experience for couples, because they can see and touch and taste as they go through the planning process. As we get to know >>



TIPS

FROM BRUNEAU AND GRANAS, BRIDAL GOODIES TO ADD TO YOUR WISH LIST.

NAMBÉ TABLEWARE

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MASQUERADE BABYDOLL, \$350, LA PERLA.

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FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.

them, we can make recommendations based on style and budget, and provide vendors that are very well trusted, reputable, and talented at what they do.

Where did the inspiration for the lounge come from?

EG: Most wedding industry professionals will tell you that the majority of their business comes from word-of-mouth referrals, so we thought a business model that uses genuine recommendations and referrals to connect couples with vendors was a solid plan.

KB: I flew out to L.A. to visit a business with a similar concept, and we adjusted what they were doing to what we thought Boston brides and grooms would appreciate.

So how do you select the vendors that you recommend?

KB: After being in the business for so many years, I know a lot of the bigger names in the industry. But what we wanted was to have a wide variety of people, so we look at their >>

websites, view samples of their work, ask for referrals from other industry professionals that are well respected, and use reviews that brides and grooms have written and posted online.

How does BBL help with the planning process?

KB: A lot of people don't know where to begin. We bring it back to talking about where you are, step by step. Sometimes it takes an expert in the field to bring couples back to that mindset, bring a smile to their faces, and let them realize that it's okay.

EG: Essentially we're trying to find a vendor that matches their personalities and style.

Your jobs seem to be equal parts concierge and matchmaker. How do you pair clients with vendors?

KB: We look for a lot of key words. We had a couple who came in wanting to "honor local." They live over in the Seaport and love their neighborhood. We recommended the Epicenter as a venue, and we recommended Chive catering—because they pull all their food from local farms—and the bride and groom loved it.

Where do you suggest brides start with their planning?

KB: You want to decide what wedding style you'd like, what your guest list will look like, the time of year you want to get married, your budget, and how you want to celebrate with your guests. Then start researching venues and vendors.

What can be left for later?

KB: Spa treatments! Treat yourself. Right before the wedding you should honestly be pampering yourself. Don't leave any of the heavy load for a couple of weeks before. Just tie up loose ends and enjoy it.

Even with all the help, a bride-to-be can still get anxious. Do you have a go-to mantra to help prevent spiraling?

KB: "Take it one step at a time." When you try to do everything at once, it's too much. But if you take it piece by piece and have a timeline and a budget in your head, it's much more manageable.

BOSTON BRIDAL LOUNGE, 125 NEWBURY ST., BOSTON, 617-236-0005, BOSTONBRIDALLOUNGE.COM.



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THE DANCE DOCTORS

Your first-ever romantic turn on the floor might have been awkward, but with a little practice, your first one as a married couple doesn't have to be.

For some folks, dancing is pure fun. For others, it's an anxiety-inducing prospect. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, if a wedding dance is in your near future, lessons should be, too. Hundreds of couples have turned to Arthur Murray Dance Studios owner Mark Lightner and instructor Kia Kenney for help preparing for their first dance as husband and wife. These two know what it takes to get the most shine out of your time in the spotlight—and are more than happy to get you ready for the spin of a lifetime. A.E.M.

What is your studio's teaching style?

MARK LIGHTNER: The most unique thing about our curriculum is probably the three phases. First, there's no preset schedule. Our students pick the intensity and the amount of repetition based on their availability and their passion for dancing. Second, we teach everything based on a predetermined syllabus that allows us to be a lot more efficient. Finally, we have a national board that constantly updates our lessons with new information, so when dance styles become popular, you get that syllabus delivered to you, ready to go. >>

TIPS

FIVE CLASSIC SONG SUGGESTIONS FOR A FOOLPROOF FIRST DANCE.

"Let's Stay Together"

AL GREEN

"Fly Me to the Moon"

FRANK SINATRA

"Maybe I'm Amazed"

PAUL MCCARTNEY

"Unforgettable"

NAT KING COLE

"How Sweet It Is"

MARVIN GAYE



What dance styles are popular these days? Are we all still doing the waltz?

ML: We'll always see traditional, but we've seen amazing creativity. One thing that's brought us a lot of information is YouTube. Students walk in and say, "Here's what I want to do at my wedding. How do I learn that kind of thing?"

KIA KENNEY: Salsa is popular if they have a destination wedding. We've done Latin medleys for people. We also get a lot of requests for swing from those who want something more lively. We try to tailor it around the music, because the song usually has some meaning.

Are there any dances that are klutzproof?

ML: There are definitely dances that are easier than others. Some are less complicated in basic rhythm, and we pride ourselves on making adjustments. A lot of it depends on how much time you want to spend training. And what we find out is that often a couple's desire for the finished product and their commitment to learn aren't always in balance, and that's an important consideration. >>

PHOTOGRAPH BY PARAMOUNT/COURTESY OF THE NEAL PETERS COLLECTION

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Helen Makadia
PHOTOGRAPHY

617.784.4482
helenmakadiaphotography.com

What do you find is more successful: memorizing choreography, or learning some steps to the rhythm of your song and then freestyling?

KK: If someone wants a choreographed dance, we certainly will deliver that. But if you can spend the time to actually learn how to dance, then you have ownership of what you're doing. If you have to map out and learn choreographed steps to every beat of the music, that's one more thing to think about. And it can sometimes detract from the partnership aspect, which is what makes watching a dance so enjoyable.

So why take classes? Theoretically, the couple could just stand there and waddle back and forth for three minutes.

ML: Your first dance is such a highlight; when you watch it after the fact and realize you did the high school sway out there and were capable of more, that's kind of disappointing. I think there are a lot of couples that have a go-for-it attitude and decide to make it something special. Most important, wedding planning can get hectic, and often the dance lessons are one of the few times that they can really focus on each other.

How long should the first dance be?

ML: Two minutes is a really great time frame. We often give couples a grouping that they'll repeat. Most of our pros will have a minute of choreography and loop; that's a really good idea for our students, as well.

How much can a bride and groom expect to spend on dance lessons?

KK: Most couples' lessons range from \$600 to \$1,500 if they want to go all out on a longer program that encompasses a great first dance and also the ability to dance throughout the whole reception to a variety of music.

Any thoughts for a dance-wary groom-to-be?

KK: I had a groom tell me once that the only guy who doesn't want to dance is the guy who doesn't know how. So it's just fun to watch them learn and have more fun than they ever imagined.

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO, 20 PARK PLAZA, STE. 300, BOSTON, 617-426-3335, ARTHURMURRAYBOSTON.COM.

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Venues

• ||| TOP SPOTS FOR PARTIES AND GETAWAYS

AISLES WITH STYLE

Thanks to some serious revamping, these five Bay State venues are some of the freshest spots to say "I do." BY KARA BASKIN





THE INTERNATIONAL

Autumn is a dazzling time to book this sprawling 60-acre golf resort in Bolton, an area known for its apple orchards. Here you'll find a refurbished ballroom, updated guest rooms, and a new bridal suite—not to mention food that's a cut above banquet fare (chef Joseph Brenner spent years working with Todd English, and now works with couples to design menus to their specifications). Meanwhile, an on-site spa offers a truly transporting massage, and those who love the links can enjoy access to two championship courses—perfect for a post-rehearsal tee-off.

159 BALLVILLE RD., BOLTON, 978-779-6911, THEINTERNATIONAL.COM.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PIZZUTI STUDIOS PHOTOGRAPHY



RIALTO

At this beloved Cambridge restaurant, couples can celebrate with an intimate Italian dinner party on the heated, vine-wrapped terrace, opened just last summer. The space, which holds 40 people for a seated dinner (more for cocktail receptions) under a twinkling awning, has already become popular for smaller weddings. As for the food? Recent selections on the customizable prix-fixe menu have included Macomber turnip soup, Venetian duck pâté on bulgur crackers, and butter-poached lobster, making this a unique choice for lovebirds in search of a venue with exceptional cuisine. ONE BENNETT ST., CAMBRIDGE, 617-661-5050, RIALTO-RESTAURANT.COM.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY REBECCA FETNER / RIALTO RESTAURANT (TERRACE); SCOTT M. LACEY (LOBSTER)



WYCHMERE BEACH CLUB

The much-respected Boston-based Longwood Events purchased this waterfront property in Harwich Port, Cape Cod, last year and set about restoring it in a style the company calls “Ralph Lauren meets Cape Cod”—which means you can expect plenty of preppy navy blues, ivories, and beiges set against breathtaking vistas. Outdoor ceremonies can be held on manicured grounds overlooking Harwich Harbor, while inside, the stately Harbor Room accommodates up to 300 guests—who afterward can spill out onto white sand for a seaside reception. The venue also benefits from Longwood's signature flexibility; planners fulfill special requests of every kind, from photo booths to clambakes. SNOW INN ROAD, HARWICH PORT, 617-854-5000, LONGWOODEVENTS.COM.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMY DYKENS



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Big news: The MFA now hosts weddings. Its crown jewel is the spectacular glass-walled Shapiro Family Courtyard, a soaring 12,000-plus-square-foot stunner designed by famed London architects Foster + Partners. Elsewhere on the property, the Koch Gallery, lined with 17th- and 18th-century European paintings, provides a regal backdrop for smaller weddings. Restaurant Associates—which serves up food at celebrations in other landmark museums, including the MET—provides the catering. And as a bonus, attendees can view the galleries, including the new Arts of the Americas wing. Just be prepared for a hefty tab: A \$30,000 gift to the MFA is required to throw a wedding fete here. 465 HUNTINGTON AVE., BOSTON, 617-267-9300, MFA.ORG.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRUBER PHOTOGRAPHERS



MANDARIN ORIENTAL BOSTON

The soul of this swanky Back Bay hotel is its only outdoor space (also known as the “sitting grove”), which now accommodates ceremonies spring through fall. Here guests can take in lush greenery—tangles of wild ginger, red peonies, and Oriental poppies—along with the bride and groom’s vows. Cocktail receptions and “high-end picnics,” as the Mandarin likes to call them, also work well in the space; guests can luxuriate on lush blankets and ottomans while feasting on Asian-inspired (but locally sourced) bento boxes filled with whatever a couple may desire. 776 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, 617-535-8888, MANDARINORIENTAL.COM/BOSTON.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL

CLOSE CONNECTIONS

These New England minimoons offer all the relaxation of an exotic getaway—but none of the stress of traveling. BY JAMIE COELHO

MOUNTAIN VIEW GRAND RESORT AND SPA

WHITEFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A trip to the White Mountains is the perfect prescription for some much-deserved postnuptial R & R. But with 57 mountain peaks surrounding this retreat, the hard part will be deciding just how much relaxing you really want to do. If you're so inspired, try the horseback riding, snowmobiling, and sleigh rides, or test your skills on the historical nine-hole golf course. Afterward, unwind at the spa in a treatment room built for two, or hide away in your suite, where mountain-facing windows will inspire you to get up, get out there, and do it all over again.

101 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD., 866-484-3843, MOUNTAINVIEWGRAND.COM.

THE WAUWINET

NANTUCKET

Relaxation is a cinch at this Relais & Château property, which boasts two private beaches opposite the Atlantic and Nantucket Bay, lawn chairs on sprawling green grass, and couples' massages. When you've had your fill, take off and go fishing, bird-watching, kayaking, golfing, or shopping in the area (though the hotel is nine miles from Nantucket Town, regular jitney service is offered). But with thoughtful extras such as

bedtime sweets, turndown service, and port and cheese tastings, why would you ever want to leave?

120 WAUWINET RD., 800-426-8718, WAUWINET.COM.



CASTLE HILL RESORT AND SPA

CAVENDISH, VERMONT

Prince William and Kate Middleton may have the last word on getting the royal honeymoon treatment, but Vermont's Castle Hill Resort and Spa offers up luxury fit for a king and queen closer to home. This stone mansion's 10 handsomely furnished period rooms are the perfect place to unwind after a day spent hiking the trails or mastering the slopes. Brides and grooms alike will appreciate the spa's massages, heated outdoor pool, and hot tub. Nearby Ludlow—which boasts quaint shops and covered bridges—as well as the Green Mountains are worth a visit, especially when gilded in autumn golds or coated in winter whites.

2910 ROUTE 103, 802-226-7361, CASTLEHILLRESORTVT.COM.



OCEAN HOUSE

WATCH HILL, RHODE ISLAND

Spending two weeks in Hawaii isn't the only way to get a taste of paradise: Those looking for a seaside getaway with plenty of pampering can also find it at the Ocean House. The 19th-century hotel's bygone beauty has recently been brought back to life—more than 5,000 artifacts were re-created or reused, including Victorian windows, doors, and chandeliers. Suites here overlook a private white-sand beach on which guests lounge in cabanas and enjoy Friday-night clambakes by a bonfire. And the Ocean House's exterior, studded with porches, decks, and terraces, exudes a fairy-tale feel, making this the perfect place to begin your happily ever after. ONE BLUFF AVE., 401-584-7000, OCEANHOUSERI.COM.



SPRING HOUSE HOTEL

BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND

A 30-minute ferry ride from Point Judith, the tiny haven that is Block Island embodies all things picturesque and romantic. The Spring House Hotel, situated on rolling green foothills, is just a 15-minute walk from downtown; guest rooms have ocean views, and the wraparound porch is a sublime spot for sipping a Dark and Stormy. Meanwhile, unpaved paths along the beach lead to the Mohegan Bluffs, the South East Lighthouse, and secluded stretches of sand.

52 SPRING ST., 401-466-5844, SPRINGHOUSEHOTEL.COM.

INN AT MILL FALLS

MEREDITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Couples can cozy up in this inn's "Bell Tower" room, where a private staircase leads to a crackling fireplace and a balcony view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Upgrade with honeymoon extras such as rose-petal turndown service, champagne, and strawberries (the whirlpool tub built for two is always included). Shop and feast on-property at the Marketplace, a collection of 13 shops and two restaurants within view of a 40-foot waterfall. There are also nearby hiking and kayaking options for outdoors enthusiasts, and Weirs Beach offers an old-fashioned drive-in that begs for a retro-style first date as husband and wife.

312 DANIEL WEBSTER HWY.,
800-622-6455, MILLFALLS.COM.



WHITE BARN INN AND SPA

KENNEBUNK BEACH, MAINE

A stay at the White Barn Inn comes with an irresistible urge to begin putting on the so-called newlywed nine. It houses the only Forbes five-star and AAA five-diamond restaurant north of New York City; there, elaborate dinners in a restored historical barn showcase the best seafood New England has to offer. The inn's posh loft suite features heated marble floors and a soaking tub, while its freestanding cottages sit on the banks of the sparkling Kennebunk River. Honeymoon packages include champagne and chocolate, a four-course dinner, breakfast, a butler-drawn bath, and Swedish massages in a fireplace-adorned spa suite. 37 BEACH AVE., 207-967-2321, WHITEBARNINN.COM.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB MANLEY (INN AT MILL FALLS); TRENT BELL (WHITE BARN INN)



BEACH PLUM INN AND RESTAURANT

MENEMSHA, MARTHA'S VINEYARD

You can't put a price on a sunset. But if you could, then a stay at the Beach Plum Inn would be an absolute steal. The retreat, located up-island on Menemsha Harbor, has just 11 rooms, most of which feature porches, decks, or patios perfect for watching the sun sink slowly into the horizon. A stay here comes with shuttle access to the peaceful Lucy Vincent Beach, a private sandy stretch perfect for photo ops. Dishes at the hotel's restaurant (the Obamas noshed there last summer) range from soft-shell crab with coconut risotto to pan-seared, hazelnut-crusted halibut. 50 BEACH PLUM LN., 508-645-9454, BEACHPLUMINN.COM.



WINVIAN

MORRIS, CONNECTICUT

This 18-cottage resort is the stuff of storybook beginnings. In addition to its main house, spa, and award-winning restaurant, the four-year-old Relais & Châteaux resort in Connecticut's Litchfield Hills offers uniquely designed digs—all ultramodern with a touch of whimsy—including spaces modeled after a tree house, a library, and even a helicopter hangar (complete with a restored 17,000-pound 1968 Sikorsky inside). Sporty couples can hike, ride in a hot-air balloon, golf, kayak, or snowshoe across the compound. And if that's not enough, there are 4,000 more acres to explore in the surrounding White Memorial Preserve. 155 ALAIN WHITE RD., 860-567-9600, WINVIAN.COM.

• ||| WITH SO MUCH TO PLAN, IMAGINATION IS KEY

It All Starts Here...

• ||| FROM ETHEREAL GOWNS AND BREATHTAKING CAKES

• ||| TO DELICATE BLOOMS AND BRILLIANT JEWELS, THIS IS WHERE INSPIRATION BEGINS

TAILOR MADE

YOU'VE FOUND THE PERFECT
DRESS—WHY NOT GET DESSERT
TO MATCH? FIVE LOCAL BAKERS
WHIP UP CAKES INSPIRED
BY GORGEOUS GOWNS.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLER + KELLER
WARDROBE STYLING BY JULIE PAQUETTE/TEAM
PROP STYLING BY BETH WICKWIRE/ENNIS
PRODUCED BY ANNE VICKMAN AND ALYCE JONES

BLUSHING BRIDE

OPPOSITE PAGE Lilly Pulitzer "Libby" lace-overlay gown, \$2,700, and Haute Bride sterling silver bracelet with Swarovski crystals, \$225, both Country Weddings; silk flutter flower clip, \$58 for two, EmersonMade.

Four-tier fondant-covered round cake with sugar cutouts and sugar flowers, starts at \$10 per slice, Jenny's Wedding Cakes.





ALL THE TRIMMINGS

OPPOSITE PAGE
Alvina Valenta
pleated-silk gown,
\$3,280; Haute
Bride sterling
silver earrings
with Swarovski
crystals, \$175,
and bracelets,
\$295 and \$305;
Malis-Henderson
rhodium-plated
crystal bracelet,
\$200; all Country
Weddings.

Five-tier fondant-
covered round
cake with alter-
nating hand-cut
pleats, sugar gems,
and sugar flower,
starts at \$11 per
slice, Jenny's
Wedding Cakes.

DELICATE UNDERTAKING

OPPOSITE PAGE Elie Saab "Auriga" silk-taffeta and embroidered-lace gown, \$10,800, L'élite Bridal Boutique; Lauren K. 18-karat rose gold and diamond necklace, \$4,995, and Barbara Heinrich 18-karat yellow gold and diamond earrings, \$3,700, both Quadrum Gallery.

Five-tier fondant-covered round cake with gum-paste lace appliques, royal icing, and sugar flower, starts at \$10 per slice, Cakes to Remember.



ALL AFLUTTER

Liancarlo silk-organza gown, \$1,969, Oscar de la Renta "Petal" earrings, \$385, and bracelet, \$700, all L'élite; Erica Koesler French net veil, \$130, Country Weddings. Custom birdcage veil (in background), \$200, L'élite.

OPPOSITE PAGE Three-tier fondant-covered round cake with pearlized bow and flower details, starts at \$10 per slice, Amanda Oakleaf Cakes.



SEW PERFECT

OPPOSITE PAGE
"Flora" tulle and
tissue-organza
gown, \$5,600,
Vera Wang; Nicole
Landaw 14-karat
gold and moonstone
earrings, \$1,850,
Quadrum Gallery.

Three-tier fondant-covered round cake with spun sugar, pearlescent gum-paste flowers, and shimmer fondant ribbon, starts at \$11 per slice, Cakes to Remember.





CLOUD NINE

OPPOSITE PAGE “Ghilian” tissue-organza dress, \$8,500, Vera Wang; Barbara Heinrich 18-karat gold and diamond earrings, \$2,840, Lauren K. 18-karat gold, ruby, and diamond ring, \$5,700, Susan Hoge rock-crystal and gold-mesh beaded bracelet, \$2,500, and Susan Hoge glass-bead and freshwater-pearl mesh bracelet, \$625, all Quadrum Gallery; satin sash, \$32, EmersonMade. Peter Langner veil (in background), \$700, L'élite.

Three-tier fondant-covered round cake with gum-paste ribbon ruffles, starts at \$10.50 per slice, Sweet Alternatives.



PEARL'S NIGHT OUT

Reem Acra "Moonstruck" sheath dress with pearl and crystal beading, \$5,300, and Maria Elena silver, pearl, and rhinestone earrings, \$275, both L'élite; Sara Gabriel "Vera" headband, \$250, Country Weddings; Gurhan 24-karat gold and pavé diamond ring, \$9,980, Quadrum Gallery. Oscar de la Renta satin pumps (in background), \$675, L'élite.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Three-tier round and hexagonal cake covered in fondant and edible pearls, starts at \$7.50 per slice, I Dream of Jeanne Cakes.

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.



HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
MARYELLE O'ROURKE/
TEAM ARTIST REP-
RESENTATIVE/TEAM
ATELIER; MODEL, ORLA/
MAGGIE INC.; CHAIR
COURTESY OF ARHAUS;
DRESS FORMS COUR-
TESY OF THE SCHOOL
OF FASHION DESIGN
BOSTON; TEXTILES,
BACKDROPS, AND
SEWING MACHINE COUR-
TESY OF MARI QUIRK.



TRENDSPOTTING

BRILLIANTLY HUED BRIDESMAID GOWNS FRESH FROM THE RUNWAY.

A ruched V-neck lends a flirty feel to this silk-chiffon A-line dress by J.Crew.



BLUE

FROM LEFT Emma Graham Designs, First Date Boutique; Dessy Collection, Country Weddings; Aria Bridesmaids; Alfred Sung, L'élite Bridal Boutique; Joanna August, Bella Bridesmaid.



GREEN

FROM LEFT Liancarlo, L'élite; Alfred Angelo; Joanna August, Bella Bridesmaid; Lela Rose, Flair Bridesmaids; LulaKate, Bella Bridesmaid.





PINK

FROM LEFT
Lela Rose, Flair
Bridesmaids; Dessy
Collection, Country
Weddings; Alfred
Sung, L'élite; Priscilla
of Boston; Thread,
Bella Bridesmaid.



PURPLE

FROM LEFT Simple
Silhouettes, Bella
Bridesmaid; Aria
Bridesmaids; Dessy
Collection, Country
Weddings; LulaKate,
Bella Bridesmaid;
Lela Rose, Flair
Bridesmaids.



GRAY

FROM LEFT
Lela Rose, Flair
Bridesmaids;
Priscilla of
Boston; Simple
Silhouettes,
Bella Bridesmaid;
J.Crew; Alfred
Sung, L'élite.



BLACK

FROM LEFT Priscilla
of Boston; Alfred
Angelo; Liancarlo,
L'élite; Dessy
Collection, Country
Weddings;
Alfred Angelo.





CLEARLY STUNNING

Fourteen-karat white gold, white topaz, and diamond pendant, \$1,000, Persona.

ICED OUT

RADIANT GEMS AND BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS DAZZLE IN WINTRY HUES.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT GOODWIN III STYLING BY CAROLINE WOODWARD/ENNIS
ICE SCULPTURES BY CRAIG MCCONNELL/IMAGES IN ICE III PRODUCED BY ANNE VICKMAN AND ALYCE JONES



BEYOND THE PALE

Bridal bouquet of roses, ranunculus, calla lilies, scabiosa pods, lilacs, freesia, dusty miller, lisianthus, and hydrangeas, \$315, Fino Fresh Floral Design.



ROCK CANDY

FROM TOP Fragments Swarovski crystal bracelets, \$175 each, and Lee Angel necklace, \$290, both Neiman Marcus; 22-karat gold and pearl ring, \$1,680, Persona.



ROYAL FLUSH
Bridesmaid bouquet of Bliss roses, hyacinths, tulips, and anemones, wrapped in sheer silk ribbon and pinned with pearls, \$95, BlueGuava.



GEM SHOW
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Fourteen-karat white gold, topaz, and diamond cocktail ring, \$1,425, Persona; 18-karat white gold, amethyst, and diamond ring, \$1,195, Long's Jewelers; Alexis Bittar Lucite ring with crystals, \$245, Neiman Marcus; David Yurman sterling silver, moonstone, and diamond ring, \$875, and 18-karat white gold and amethyst ring with pavé sapphires, \$2,650, both Long's Jewelers; 14-karat white gold, moonstone, and diamond ring, \$1,050, Persona.

AZURE THING

FROM TOP Bridal bouquet of hydrangeas, Tibet roses, grape hyacinths, tweedia, eryngium thistle, dusty miller, and delphiniums, \$250; bridesmaid bouquet of hydrangeas, eryngium thistle, berzelia, hyacinths, and silver ting-ting, \$125, both New Leaf Flores.



SHINE ON

FROM LEFT Fragments rhinestone bracelet, \$195, Neiman Marcus; 14-karat white gold and emerald-cut topaz bracelet, \$1,595, Long's Jewelers.

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.



REAL NEW ENGLAND WEDDINGS

NEED A LITTLE EXTRA
INSPIRATION? TURN TO
THESE SIX LOCAL COUPLES,
WHO TIED THE KNOT IN
STYLES ALL THEIR OWN.

JULY 17, 2010
THE STATE ROOM
BOSTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DMPJ BY GLEN COOPER

Emma Zinsmeister is the opposite of a bridezilla. Instead of looking out for *numero uno*, the program analyst (who works for the Environmental Protection Agency) put Mother Earth ahead of everyone on her wedding day. “We found businesses and products that reflected our environmentally and socially conscious lifestyle,” she says.

Emma and college sweetheart Steve Swartz offered their guests a meal with as many organic, locally grown, and sustainably harvested ingredients as possible, and most of their flowers came from local farms. The couple went even further by “[finding] paper products and stationery with the highest recycled content possible and [reducing] the number of paper items needed overall,” she says. Instead of giving each guest a dinner menu, for example, each table had one to share. The bride and groom worked with local companies rather than big-box vendors to create the natural atmosphere they were looking for.

And even though the State Room is in a 33-story skyscraper, it has an organic feel to it, Emma explains, noting the hardwood floors, natural light, and amazing views of the city. “We considered getting married outside,” she says. “But not in the middle of July in Boston!” JULIE SURATT



EMMA ZINSMEISTER & STEVE SWARTZ



(1) Tables were placed close to the floor-to-ceiling windows so guests could fully enjoy the breathtaking vistas. (2) The cake had three layers: strawberry and cream, raspberry-lime rickey, and passion fruit and macadamia nut. The color and design mirrored the couple's invitations, which featured a blue-and-white-cloud motif. “We thought that was fitting, since the State Room was on the 33rd floor, up in the clouds,” says Steve. (3) The bridesmaid dresses matched the color of Emma's sapphire engagement ring.

(4) Dorene Vandermeer of Unveiled Bridal Designs helped Emma create a birdcage-style veil with peacock and ostrich feathers. (5) In keeping with their desire to use organic and socially conscious products, the couple chose Taza chocolate, made in Somerville, for their wedding favors.

(6) The bouquets featured lots of greens, big blooms, and earthy elements. “I wanted to avoid the traditional calla lilies and freesia,” says Emma.

(7) The menu included a raw bar with local oysters.



THE FILE

GOWN
TAMARA KRISTEN,
TERRI LYNN BRIDAL

VEIL
UNVEILED BRIDAL
DESIGNS

JEWELRY
I. GORMAN JEWELERS

HAIR AND MAKEUP
G SPA

BRIDESMAIDS
JASMINE BRIDAL,
KATHERINE'S BRIDAL
BOUTIQUE

MENSWEAR
HUGO BOSS

CATERING
LONGWOOD EVENTS

FLOWERS
TANGERINE CREATIONS

MUSIC
THE SUPERBAND

STATIONERY
FOREVERFIANCES

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO
BUY, PAGE 187.

LEAH FRANCONA & PAUL MICHAEL RICE



JANUARY 15, 2011
OLD SOUTH CHURCH AND
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOSTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BRIAN PHILLIPS PHOTOGRAPHY

Tennessee native Michael Rice met his future brother-in-law, Nick Francona, while on watch duty one night at Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia. And a few months later, on a trip to Boston to spend Memorial Day with his new friend's family, Michael met—and fell in love with—his future bride: Nick's younger sister, Leah. After a year of dating, Michael proposed on the Fourth of July. And then? The first lieutenant was deployed to Africa the very next day.

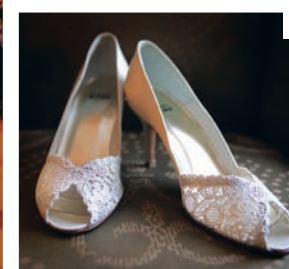
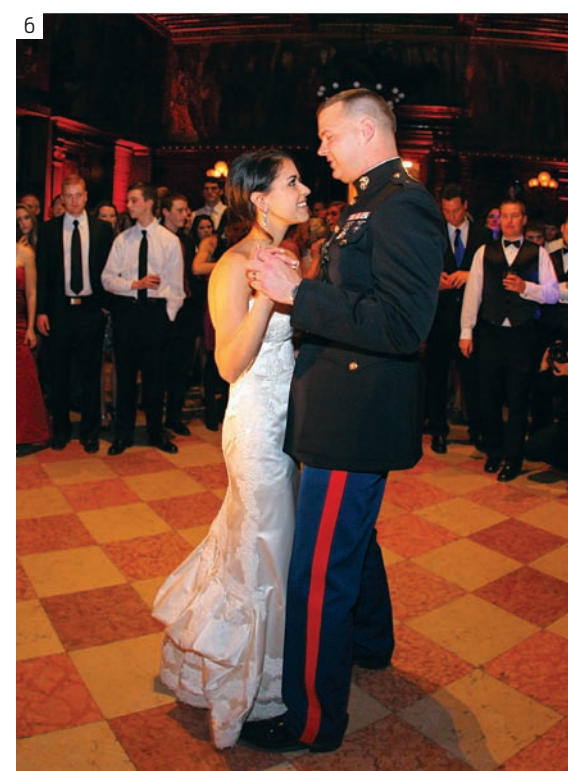
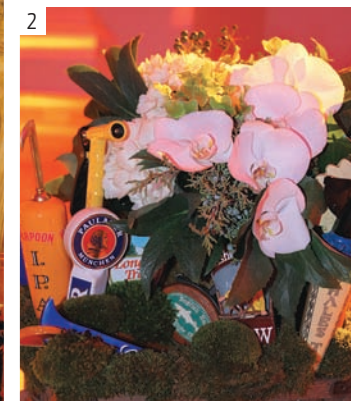
The couple decided to get married sooner rather than later, planning the wedding in just six months. "My mom was completely organized," Leah says. "I trusted her judgment with so many decisions." And despite her father's affiliation with the Red Sox—Terry Francona manages the team—the weekend was relatively baseball-free.

The couple honeymooned for a few days in Vermont before Michael had to leave again—this time for a year in California and Afghanistan. "It's heartbreaking to say goodbye to your husband, especially after you just get married," Leah says. "But I cannot tell you how much I appreciate him and the men and women who serve our country." A. J. DOWNEY



(1) Officers from Michael's unit conducted an Arch of Swords ceremony at the church and greeted guests at the reception. (2) Leah surprised Michael and his pals with a craft-beer bar that served up an assortment of microbrews. "I wanted something for the guys," she says.

(3) The bride fell in love with the Boston Public Library for the reception venue the minute she saw it. (4) A variety of rich hues gave the wedding a wintry theme. (5) Thanks to the short distance—between the church and the library, Leah's Stuart Weitzman peep-toe pumps managed to stay clean despite the elements. (6) After dinner, a young crowd danced until half past midnight. "It was the best day of my life," says Leah. "But it goes by so fast." (7) The Catered Affair sculpted a decadent six-tier cake infused with vanilla, raspberry, and chocolate, which the couple cut with Michael's military saber.



THE FILE

DRESS
PRISCILLA OF BOSTON
MAKEUP
STACEY FRASCA
CATERER AND CAKE
THE CATERED AFFAIR
FLOWERS
TABLE AND TULIP
EVENT PLANNING
RAFANELLI EVENTS
VIDEOGRAPHY
AFTERIMAGE
PRODUCTIONS
MUSIC
NIGHT SHIFT
ENTERTAINMENT
LINENS
NUAGE DESIGNS
TRANSPORTATION
LTI WORLDWIDE
LIMOUSINE
LIGHTING
PORT LIGHTING SYSTEMS

FOR DETAILS, SEE **WHERE TO BUY**,
PAGE 187.



SUANNE AU & FATEMEH PARSA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2010
BALANCE ROCK INN
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BREA McDONALD PHOTOGRAPHY

Fatemeh Parsa had planned to pop the question to her girlfriend of two years, Suanne Au, during dinner at a nice restaurant; the pharmacy technician got so excited, though, that she ended up proposing to Suanne weeks ahead of schedule. “That’s how Fatemeh is,” explains Suanne. “I always get my birthday present in October—even though my birthday is in November.”

The couple, who met at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, married last fall. On the way to Maine for the wedding celebration, they stopped overnight in Vermont for a private civil ceremony—so although they were technically married when they walked onto the lawn overlooking Frenchman Bay in front of 20 friends and relatives, it was still their favorite moment. “The vows are the most meaningful part—the paperwork is boring, and the rest is for enjoyment,” says Suanne, a math professor at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York.

As little girls, neither had ever really imagined her own wedding, “especially since I realized I’m gay,” says Suanne. “It just wasn’t one of the options.” Fatemeh agrees: “But even though I hadn’t given it much thought, it turned out exactly how I’d dreamed it would be.” J.S.



(1) The couple paid tribute to their home state of New York by using apples as place cards.

(2) Suanne wanted a wedding spot with beautiful scenery, while Fatemeh was looking for a place with character. Balance Rock Inn was the “perfect compromise,” says Fatemeh. (3) The lemon cake with raspberry filling and buttercream frosting was displayed on a slab of polished oak. (4) Votive candles were elevated on birch disks. (5) The ceremony was held on a three-acre promontory overlooking Frenchman Bay. (6) Suanne wanted tulips in her bouquet—not an easy find in the fall. Designer Meagan Gilpatrick sourced just enough of them to work into a bouquet with fiddleheads, white spider mums, lisianthus, rose hips, veronica, and crab-apple branches. (7) Drinks were topped with apple slices.



THE FILE

GOWN AND SUIT

J.CREW

HAIR AND MAKEUP

I DO SPAS

CATERING

BAR HARBOR

CATERING COMPANY

CAKE AND FLOWERS

MAINE SEASONS EVENTS

EVENT PLANNING

MAINE SEASONS EVENTS

MUSIC

STRINGSCALM AND

JETSET QUARTET

STATIONERY

INVITESITE

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY,
PAGE 187.

HELEN TSAI & ANDREW HARLAN



OCTOBER 2, 2010
FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM
BROCKTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
A BRILLIANT PHOTO/
AGNIESZKA WORMUS

Though Helen Tsai and Andrew Harlan were in most of the same classes at MIT, they didn't actually meet until senior year: "We were part of a team designing a bike that helped children with mental disabilities learn how to ride," says Helen. Two and a half years later, Andrew, a robotics engineer, made plans to propose during a trip to Paris. He chose the Eiffel Tower as a memorable—"if not a bit clichéd"—spot to ask Helen to marry him, he says. Her take is a little different: "I was completely surprised and swept off my feet!"

Back home in Cambridge, the couple chose the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton as the wedding venue. "I wanted someplace funky and homey; Andrew wanted funky and modern. The Fuller was a great combo of all three," says Helen, who worked hard to infuse the wedding with their geek-chic style.

The avid photographers made 120 photo-booth-style escort cards that guests could take home as keepsakes. Oh, and they ran—not strode—into their reception to AC/DC's "Thunderstruck," high-fiving guests along the way. Whoever said MIT students are strait-laced has never seen two mechanical engineers do a fast-paced lindy-hop routine, complete with aerials, on the most romantic night of their lives. J.S.



(1) The couple served cupcakes in fall flavors like caramel apple. (2) Helen and Andrew took 120 unique Polaroids of themselves to use as place cards. (3) Helen's theater-arts professor, Leslie Held, helped design and make her gown. "Friends said it looked great from the front, but it was the back that really captured a bit of my personality," Helen says. (4) The tables were named after pairs that go well together. Some "were inside jokes," says Helen, "like Bacon and Peppermint Whipped Cream." (5) The day before the wedding, Helen spent \$20 on flowers from a local florist and divided them into bouquets for her bridal party. (6) Bridesmaid Cindy Panas made the boutonnieres using fabric and ribbon from one of the couple's first wedding gifts. (7) Helen created "Helen" and "Andrew" crocheted robots and attached them to a pillow with the rings.



THE FILE

GOWN
CUSTOM-MADE BY THE
BRIDE AND LESLIE HELD
JEWELRY
VOLEUR DE BIJOUX
HAIR FLOWER
XOXODESIGNS
BRIDESMAIDS
BRIDAL REFLECTIONS
MENSWEAR
MEN'S WEARHOUSE
CAKE
KICKASS CUPCAKES
CATERER
CURRIER & CHIVES
FLOWERS
PETALI FLOWERS
MUSIC
DJ NATO/NATE OINONEN
FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY,
PAGE 187.



SEPTEMBER 25, 2010
THE SINGING BEACH CLUB
MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
CLAUDIA KRONENBERG
PHOTOGRAPHY

Kelly Stecker, who flew in from her home in Australia with fiancé Quentin Reeve to tie the knot in Manchester-by-the-Sea, left most of the wedding planning to her mom and sister. And “it turned out better than I could have ever dreamed,” she says. “They have amazing taste, and I trusted them.” Phew.

Though they now live down under, Kelly, who is an assistant manager at Lululemon Athletica, and Quentin, who works in private wealth management, met in New England, and always knew they’d get married here.

The two were teammates on the Manchester sailing team in 2001. Quentin, attracted to the free-spirited girl with the ponytail and braces, schemed to recruit Kelly to sail with him on his 420-Class dinghy. “At the time, I didn’t know about the plot,” says Kelly. “As far as I knew, Quentin just needed to fill the void left by his former crew member.” She agreed, and they spent the summer driving to regattas and racing his 420.

“It was a fun way to get to know each other on a competitive level,” says Kelly. It wasn’t until they started dating in 2006 that “we learned of our mutual long-lived crushes.” Four years later, Quentin made her his cocaptain—this time for life. J.S.



KELLY STECKER & QUENTIN REEVE



(1) A 1957 Porsche Speedster convertible was the couple's getaway car at the end of the evening. (2) The vanilla cake with buttercream frosting was cut with Kelly's grandfather's saber, which was awarded to him at West Point in 1932. Kelly's grandparents used it to cut their own wedding cake. (3) The bridal party took photographs at Lobster Cove, just down the street from Quentin's childhood home. (4) The pair departed the reception through a tunnel of sparklers. (5) Save-the-dates from Shreve, Crump & Low added a classic element to the event. (6) Guests danced beneath whimsical paper lanterns. (7) Kelly's mother surprised the couple with an ice luge and “Dinky Doo” cocktails. “My mother made up the name,” explains Kelly.



THE FILE

- GOWN
PRISCILLA OF BOSTON
- MUSIC
FREESTYLE, WILSON STEVENS PRODUCTIONS
- MAKEUP
KATRINA HESS
- HAIR
DELLARIA SALONS
- BRIDESMAIDS
FLAIR BRIDESMAIDS
- MENSWEAR
CLASSIC TUXEDO
- CAKE
CAKES FOR OCCASIONS
- CATERING
RALPH PONESS, THE SINGING BEACH CLUB
- FLOWERS
CHAPMAN'S GREENHOUSES AND GARDEN
- STATIONERY
SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW
- TENT
SEACOAST TENT RENTALS
- LIGHTING
BRIAN NOLAN, PORT LIGHTING SYSTEMS
- TRANSPORTATION
CLASSIC CARS AND BYWAYS

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 187.



REBECCA LLOYD GARRISON & JOSHUA GRUBMAN



OCTOBER 9, 2010
PLIMOTH PLANTATION
PLYMOUTH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JOYELLE WEST

Josh Grubman and Becca Lloyd Garrison's love story has a happy beginning: After being matched with Becca by the dating website eHarmony, Josh, an attorney living in Somerville, saw her photo and thought, *She's beautiful.*

Becca, the owner of Boston Pilates in Jamaica Plain, met Josh for dinner, and the pair discovered they had a lot in common. Soon after, they were dating exclusively. But then the romance hit a snag: Becca discovered she was pregnant just four months into their relationship. "We knew we loved each other, and that was what mattered," says Becca. But she didn't want to get married simply because she was pregnant. "We wanted to be sure."

Five months later, Becca was sure enough to buy a ring and propose to Josh at their home in Quincy. He said yes. And then two weeks later, Josh (who'd been planning to propose all along) got down on one knee in an apple orchard and proposed. To which *she* said yes. Fast-forward one year, and here's the happy ending: Becca and Josh married last fall. Watching the couple with wide eyes was their nine-month-old daughter, Quinn. J.S.



(1) Sugar calla lilies topped the mocha cake. (2) The flower girl's headpiece included ivy and roses. (3) The maple-syrup favors added a local twist to the table settings. (4) "I didn't care what flowers my florist used—it was all about color," says the bride of her bouquet. "I told her to use her artistic vision and go to town." (5) The couple's first dance was to the Mamas and the Papas' "Dream a Little Dream of Me." (6) "The best part of our wedding was standing outside, looking over Plimoth Plantation's pond and out to sea, and realizing how far my relationship with Josh had come," says Becca. "We had a pretty crazy beginning, but our love and commitment to each other saw us through." (7) White hydrangeas provided a nice contrast to the cranberry color scheme. "They're the quintessential New England flower," says Becca. "You don't have to dress them up to make them shine."



THE FILE

GOWN
PALOMA BLANCA,
COUNTRY WEDDINGS
HEADPIECE
COUNTRY WEDDINGS
BRIDESMAIDS
JLM COUTURE,
COUNTRY WEDDINGS
CAKE
MONTILIO'S BAKING
COMPANY
CATERING
CREATIVE GOURMET AT
PLIMOTH PLANTATION
FLOWERS
PETALS AND PEARLS
MENSWEAR
BROOKS BROTHERS
MUSIC
DJ SCOTT ARRINGTON
HAIR AND MAKEUP
BEACH PLUM SPA
VIDEOGRAPHY
T-STOP PICTURES,
RUSS ANDERSON
CHOREOGRAPHY
NIKKI SELL

FOR DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY,
PAGE 187.



TOT TO TROT

IT WASN'T UNTIL Alesa Rubendall saw the photos from her wedding at Vermont's Shelburne Farms that she realized her first dance with husband Rob Voss wasn't the only one at the reception. Cousins Abby, age four, and Tedy, age three—the niece and nephew who served as flower girl and ring bearer in the lakeshore ceremony—wanted to participate in the festivities, too. Outside in the lantern-lit courtyard, the youngsters decided to reenact the couple's special moment for themselves. "They just went outside and practiced our first dance," says the bride. "It was a complete surprise." The big takeaway? When Abby and Tedy someday find their perfect match, they'll have already had plenty of practice on the dance floor. **HANNAH SHEINBERG**

PHOTOGRAPH BY DARIA BISHOP PHOTOGRAPHERS