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SPRING/SUMMER
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 Location: **Anguilla**

Location: **Four Seasons Resort and Residences, Anguilla**;
 Bodysuit & Cape: **Ines Di Santo**



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WEDDING

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PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With destination weddings continuing to be the biggest trend among luxury celebrations, it's wonderful to see so many couples and planners focused on giving their guests a memorable experience. Countless details come into play when hosting an event, whether there's a guestlist of 40 or 400. Still, there's one factor that truly sets the tone for a wedding—the people.

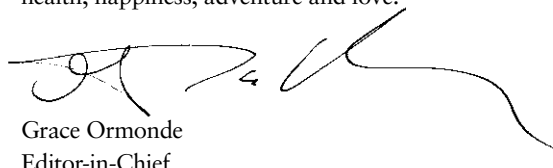
The fashion spread of this Spring/Summer 2020 issue was shot on location in Anguilla, where we stayed at Four Seasons Resort and Residences Anguilla and Belmond Cap Juluca. I had vacationed in Anguilla before, and promised myself that I would someday return to do a photoshoot on the island. Throughout our time there, I couldn't help but notice how attentive, personable and genuinely kind the staff were. They were so upbeat, willing to please and loved their jobs. The positive energy and kindness I received from them was palpable and, to put it simply, just being around the staff made me feel happy.

There are so many amazing resorts in Anguilla and around the world, but ultimately, it's the people who make the difference. From the housekeeping staff who provided turndown service, to the bartenders who served up delicious cocktails, I felt like I was the only guest. When there's staff who not only makes guests feel welcome but offers their support and positivity to wedding planners and event designers, it elevates the entire wedding experience to a whole new level.

I also felt that same sense of hospitality and warmth from the wedding professionals I worked with and realized there's so much talent on these small islands. Of course, couples who get married in remote locations may want to fly in a few key vendors to bring their vision to life; but I encourage everyone to support the local community as well. There are plenty of remarkable people who are ready and willing to contribute. Think makeup artists, high-end event designers, florists and live entertainment for an authentic touch of the region's culture.

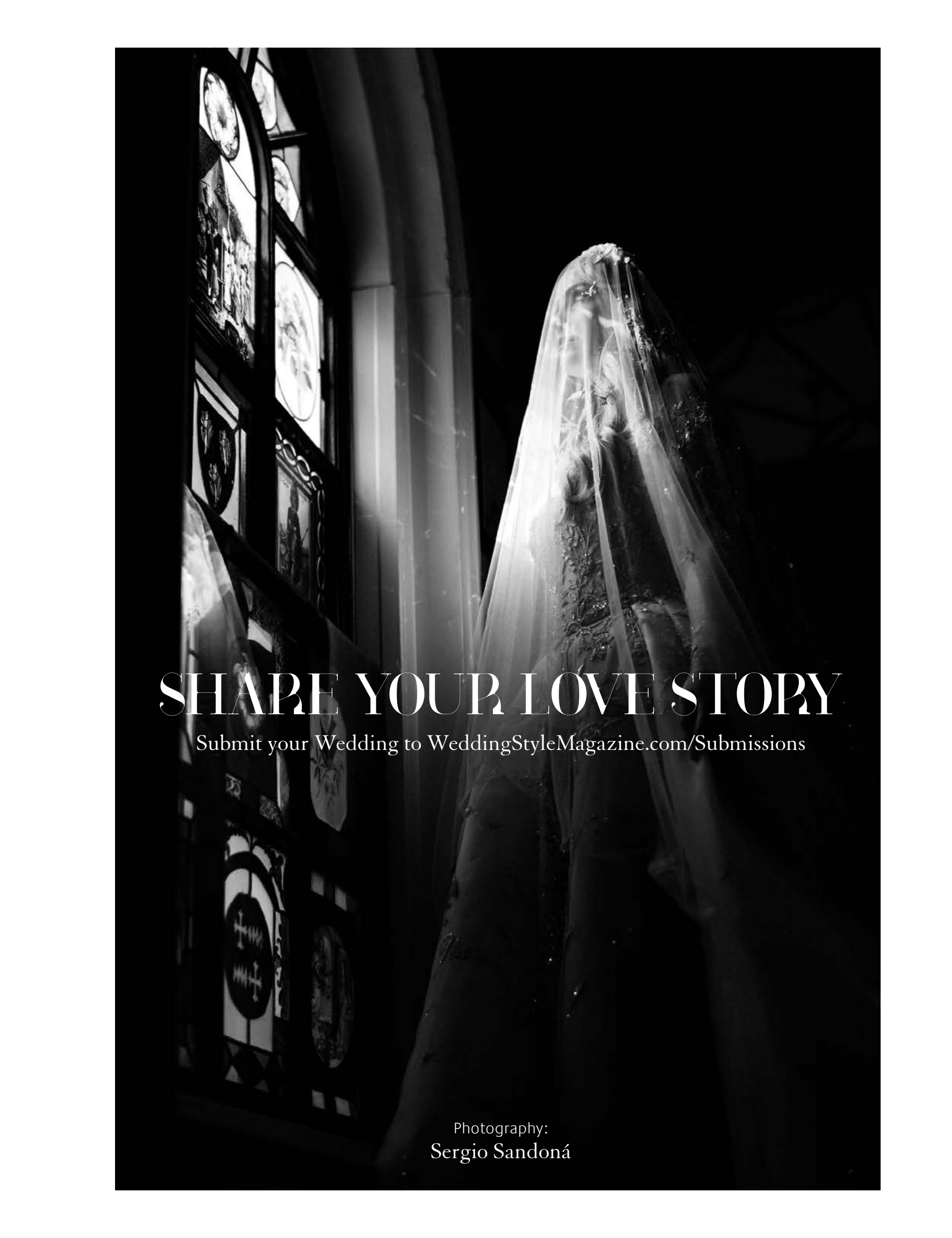
Visuals, aesthetics and gorgeous venues all have their role in a wedding or special event, but I always emphasize how the overall experience is the most important part—and it's the people who make that experience stand out from the rest. It's the people who provide the warm welcomes, the world-class service and the heartfelt sendoffs.

As we welcome a new decade, I hope you all find this next chapter of your life to be filled with health, happiness, adventure and love.



Grace Ormonde
Editor-in-Chief





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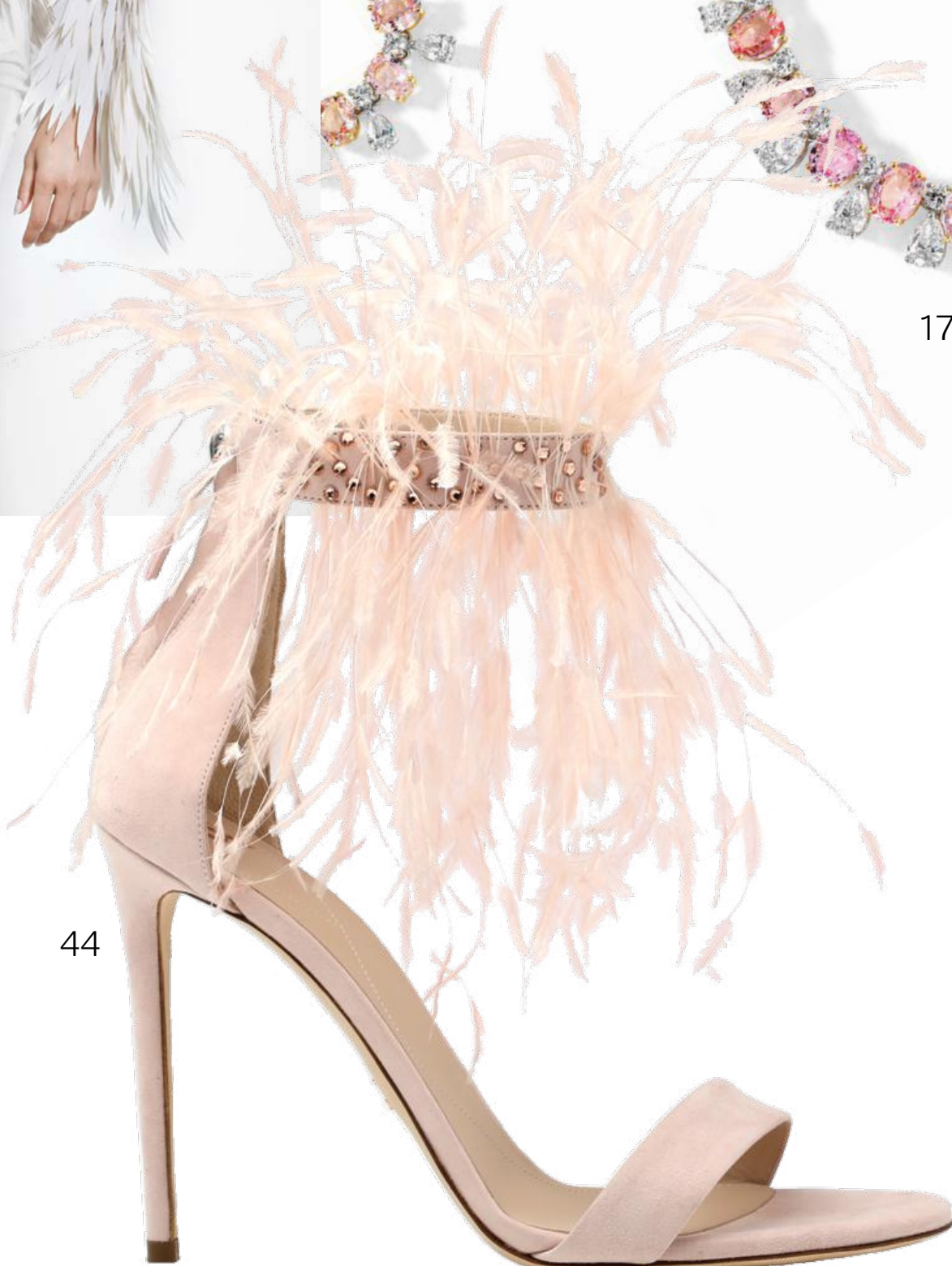
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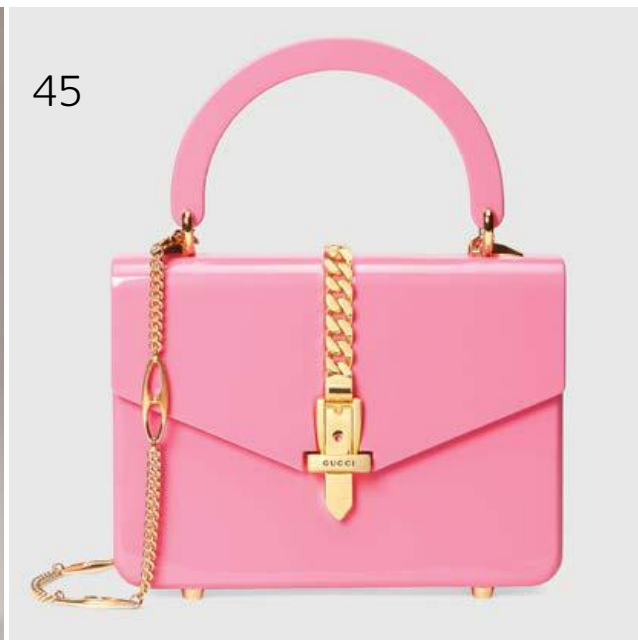
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Necklace: Oscar Heyman
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> JEWELRY:

JOYOUS BRILLIANCE



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1 Jean Dousset Halle Three-Stone Engagement Ring featuring Emerald-cut Center. \$13,400. jeandousset.com

2 Dior Vert Menthe Emerald Ring set in Yellow Gold. dior.com

3 Dior Vert Pistache Tsavorite Garnet Double Ring set in Yellow Gold. dior.com

4 Harry Winston 25-carat Emerald-cut Solitaire Engagement Ring with Tapered Baguettes set in Platinum. harrywinston.com

5 Harry Winston Legacy by Harry Winston Engagement Ring featuring 10.50-carat Pear-Shaped Diamond Center Stone set in Platinum and Diamonds. harrywinston.com

6 Harry Winston Bridal Couture Engagement Ring featuring 5.51-carat Emerald-Cut Solitaire set in Platinum and Diamonds. harrywinston.com



4



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Engagement Ring: **LDKlein LLC** New York,
NY; Groom's Watch: **Audemars Piguet**
audemarspiguet.com; Wedding Band: **Harry**
Winston; Photography: **Tali Photography**
Cologne, Germany



1 Graff 53ct. Radiant-cut Yellow Diamonds and 45ct. White Pear-Cut and Round-Cut Diamonds. graff.com

2 Etho Maria Sapphire Earrings featuring 13ct. Pink Sapphires and Diamonds set in 18K Rose Gold. \$16,600. ethomaria.com

3 Dior Orange Tangerine Spessartite Garnet Ring set in Pink Gold. dior.com

4 Etho Maria Turquoise Earrings featuring 21ct. Turquoise, 18ct. Aquamarine and Diamonds set in 18K Rose Gold. \$21,000. ethomaria.com



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5 Oscar Heyman Unheated Padparadscha and Diamond Necklace. \$450,000. oscarheyman.com

6 Oscar Heyman 10.27ct. Pink Tourmaline and Diamond Ring. \$37,000. oscarheyman.com

7 Natori Indochine Citrine Ring with Diamond Pavé. \$5,530. natori.com

> For more diamonds and accessories visit WeddingStyleMagazine.com



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3



4

1 Jessica McCormack 8.4ct. Heart Diamond Ring featuring Brilliant-Cut Diamonds set in 18K White and Yellow Gold. \$36,450. jessicamccormack.com

2 & 3 Jean Dousset Sophia Round Diamond Eternity Band set with Round Brilliant-Cut Colorless Diamonds. Handcrafted in your choice of Platinum or 18K Rose, Yellow or White Gold. \$6,200. jeandousset.com

4 Sisis Jewels Iris Mauve Earrings featuring Micromosaic, Diamonds and Amethysts. \$23,400. sisisjewels.com

5 Tiffany & Co. Schlumberger® Cactus Bracelet in 18K Yellow Gold and Platinum with Paillonné Enamel and Diamonds. \$325,000. tiffany.com

6 Tiffany & Co. Engagement Ring with an Emerald-Cut H Color Diamond with Round Diamonds. \$900,000. tiffany.com

7 Oscar Heyman 5.10ct. Emerald-Cut Diamond Engagement Ring. \$440,000. oscarheyman.com



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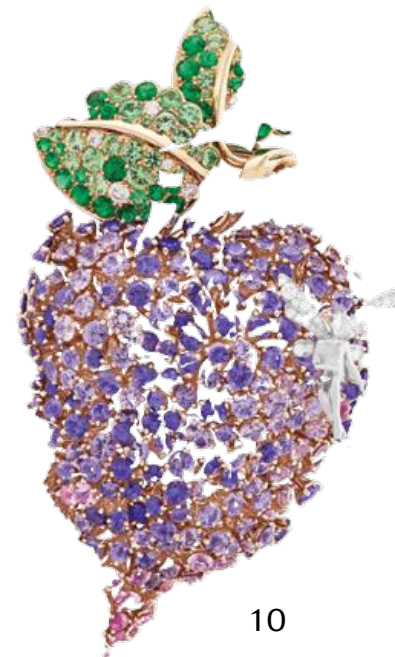


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8 & 9 Van Cleef & Arpels Zip Antique Disco
Necklace featuring Tsavorite Garnets, Chrysoprase,
Onyx and Diamonds set in 18K White Gold.
Transformable into a Bracelet. \$446,000.
vancleefarpels.com

10 Van Cleef & Arpels Edna Clip From The "Le
Secret" Collection featuring Diamonds, Sapphires,
Emeralds and Tsavorite Garnets set in 18K Rose,
White and Yellow Gold. vancleefarpels.com

11 Oscar Heyman 10ct. Unheated Ceylon
Yellow Sapphire Ring with Diamonds. \$82,000.
oscarheyman.com

12 Bulgari 4ct. Cushion-Cut High Jewelry
Engagement Ring with Two Trapezoidal Diamonds
set in Platinum. bulgari.com



11



12

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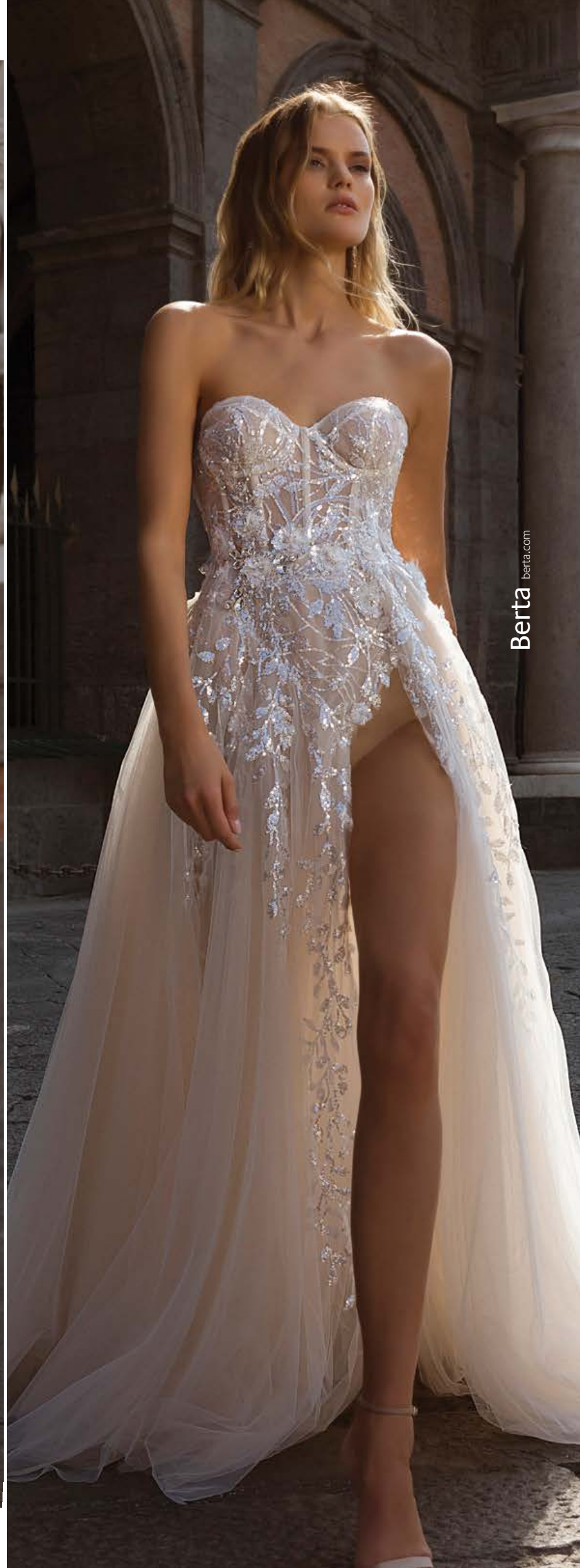
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Francesca Miranda francescamiranda.com

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> HOT PICKS:

EDITORS PICKS



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1 Suzanne Kalan Large Pink Sapphire Heart Ring set in 18K Gold. \$4,800. suzannekalan.com
2 Jan Leslie One-of-a-Kind 'Lake Tekapo' Earrings featuring Fluorite and Amethyst Stalactite set in 18K Rose Gold. \$6,250. janleslie.com
3 Ralph & Russo Nude and Black Suede and Feather Sandals with Swarovski Crystals. \$1,300. ralphandrusso.com



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4 & 6 Ralph & Russo Mint and Nude Suede Sandals with Mink. \$1,050. ralphandrusso.com
5 Gucci Sylvie 1969 Plexiglas Mini Top Handle Bag in Pink. \$2,980. gucci.com



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- 1 Harry Winston** Avenue C Mini Moon Phase 20th Anniversary Timepiece featuring Diamonds and Aquamarines set in 18K White Gold. harrywinston.com
- 2 Dior** Dior Grand Bal Opéra N. 10 Timepiece. dior.com
- 3 Nicholas Kirkwood** Fuchsia Monstera Mule in Satin. \$895. nicholaskirkwood.com
- 4 Giuseppe Zanotti** Jamila Black Leather Sandal with Crystal Detail on Ankle Strap. \$1,550. giuseppezanotti.com

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5 Ralph & Russo Black Woven Nappa and Rattan Cube Bag. \$3,800. ralphandrusso.com

6 Jan Leslie One-of-a-Kind 'Na Pali Coast' Earrings featuring Green Druzy Geode and Faceted Emerald set in 18K Gold. \$6,500. janleslie.com

7 David Oscarson Carl Milles Marriage of the Waters Pen. \$6,500. davidoscarson.com

8 Gucci Black Suede Sandal. \$790. gucci.com

9 Fendi Attire and Bags from the Spring/Summer 2020 Ready to Wear Collection. fendi.com



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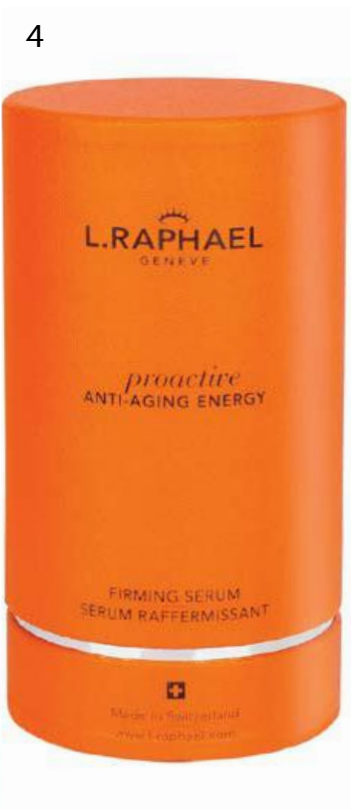
- 1 La Prairie** White Caviar Illuminating Pearl Infusion. \$570. laprairie.com
2 Mila Moursi Firming Cream. \$170. milamoursi.com
3 Mila Moursi Dual Action Serum. \$185. milamoursi.com
4 L.RAPHAEL Geneve Proactive Firming Serum. \$195. l-raphael.com
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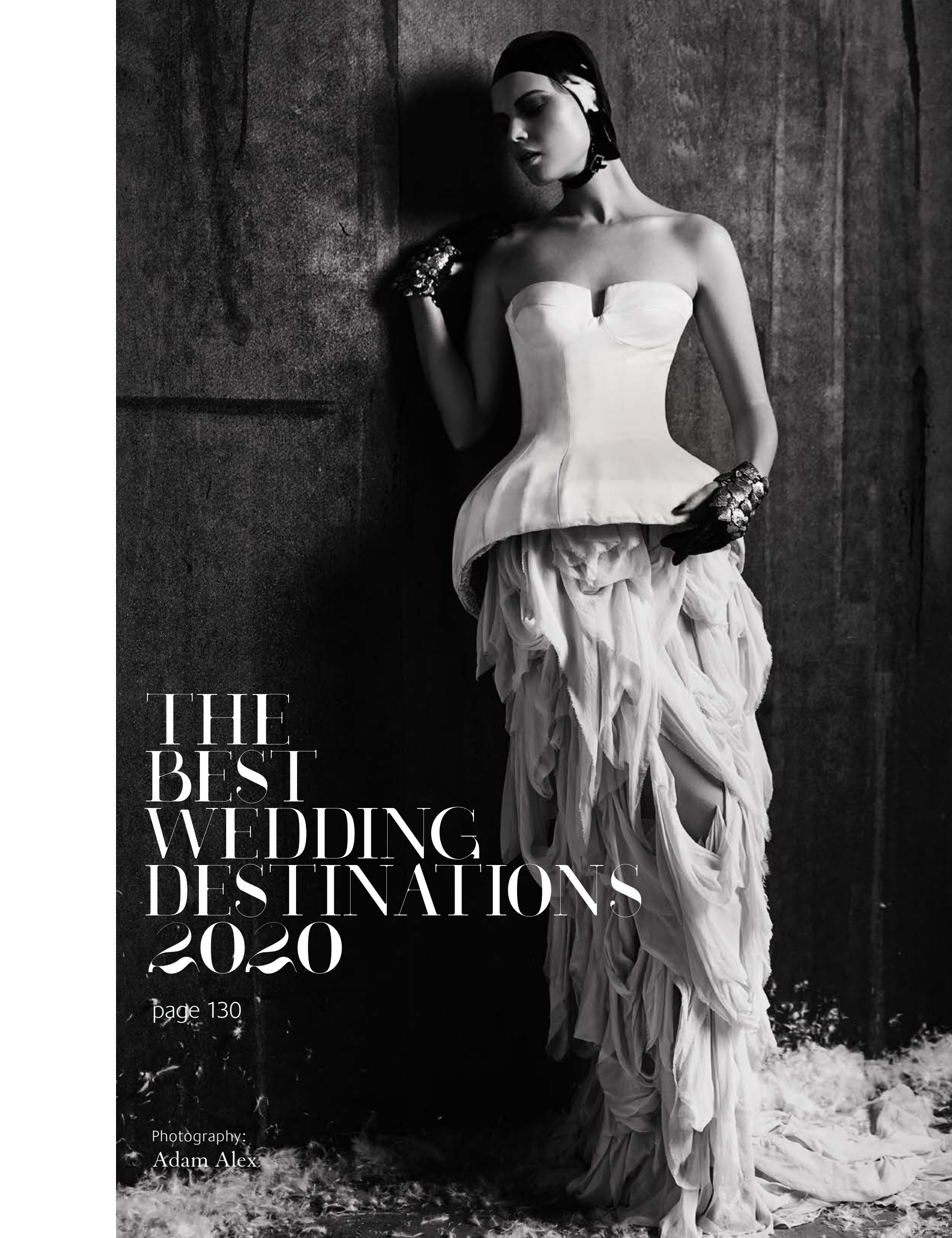
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THE BEST WEDDING DESTINATIONS 2020

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Photography:
Adam Alex



> MEN'S:

POUR LES HOMMES

1 Jan Leslie Hand-Painted Enamel Striped Frog Cuff Links in Sterling Silver. \$450. janleslie.com

2 Patek Philippe Calatrava 6006G Timepiece featuring Ebony Black and Silver Dial and Alligator Strap. \$31,410. patek.com

3 Giuseppe Zanotti "Patrick" Black Patent Leather Loafer with Satin Band. \$795. giuseppezanotti.com





4 Christian Louboutin "Dandelion Spikes" Satin Floral Loafer with Silver Spikes. \$1,295. christianlouboutin.com

5 Omega Limited Edition Seamaster Bullhead Timepiece with Black Leather Strap. \$9,600. omegawatches.com

6 Breitling Superocean Heritage Chronograph 44. \$5,915.00. breitling.com

4



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1 Giuseppe Zanotti "Erik" Leather Multicolored Crystal Embellished Loafer. \$1,295. giuseppezanotti.com

2 Asprey Panther Head Decanter in Smoke Crystal. \$4,150. asprey.com

3 Hermès Carre H Watch set in Steel Case and Smooth Black Calfskin Strap. \$7,350. hermes.com

4 Patek Philippe Annual Calendar with Moon Phases Timepiece set in White Gold with Navy Blue Strap. \$51,710. patek.com

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5 Tiffany & Co. Diamond Point Cuff Links in Sterling Silver. \$375. tiffany.com

6 Dior "Diorfuturistic" Pilot-Shaped Mask Sunglasses in Silver Metal and Translucent Grey. dior.com

7 & 8 Dior/Rimowa Hand Case and Cabin Suitcase in Gradient Blue Dior Oblique. dior.com

> SPECIAL FEATURE:

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

When Marc Friedland and Matthew David Hopkins come together for an event, there's a unique synergy and unparalleled level of creativity that can only stem from an 18-year friendship. As Marc puts it, the celebrations they create represent "the power of collaboration and good friends," and how the two industry professionals complement each other in the work they do.

After deciding on the concept of "Surreal at Sixty" for a client's birthday celebration—an event that would involve cocktails, dinner and an after-party—Marc brought Matthew of 360 Design Events onboard as the Executive Producer. From décor curation to costuming, there were countless moving parts to manage and he knew he needed a trusted partner.







“Matthew brings art into production,” Marc states. “The partnership and collaboration was so great, because he understood what I was trying to achieve creatively and was able to do the production exquisitely from a technical and artful perspective.”

Rather than focusing solely on aesthetics, the dynamic duo approached this event with the intention of creating a fully immersive experience for guests. “It’s about finding what the story is, what we want the client to feel and how to deliver beyond the materials to create an overarching, integrated experience from the beginning,” Matthew describes.

“We’ve all been to enough parties and celebrations,” adds Marc. “It’s really important to look at these events as a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you want to gift your guests

who come out to celebrate. Most people don’t approach their parties that way. It’s usually about how lavish it is. Regardless of how much was spent on this event, not one person there thought it was over the top. The currency here was measured by the degree of thoughtfulness and joy.”

The idea behind the party’s design was heavily guided by surrealism and the goal of transporting guests into another world where they could “expect the unexpected.” Invitations were presented on canvas with a Salvador Dali-inspired painting of the guest of honor, which alluded to Marc and Matthew’s process of bringing a surreal experience to life.

“We looked at this as a performance art piece that was done as an event,” says Marc. “Think of it as a painting, and all these elements







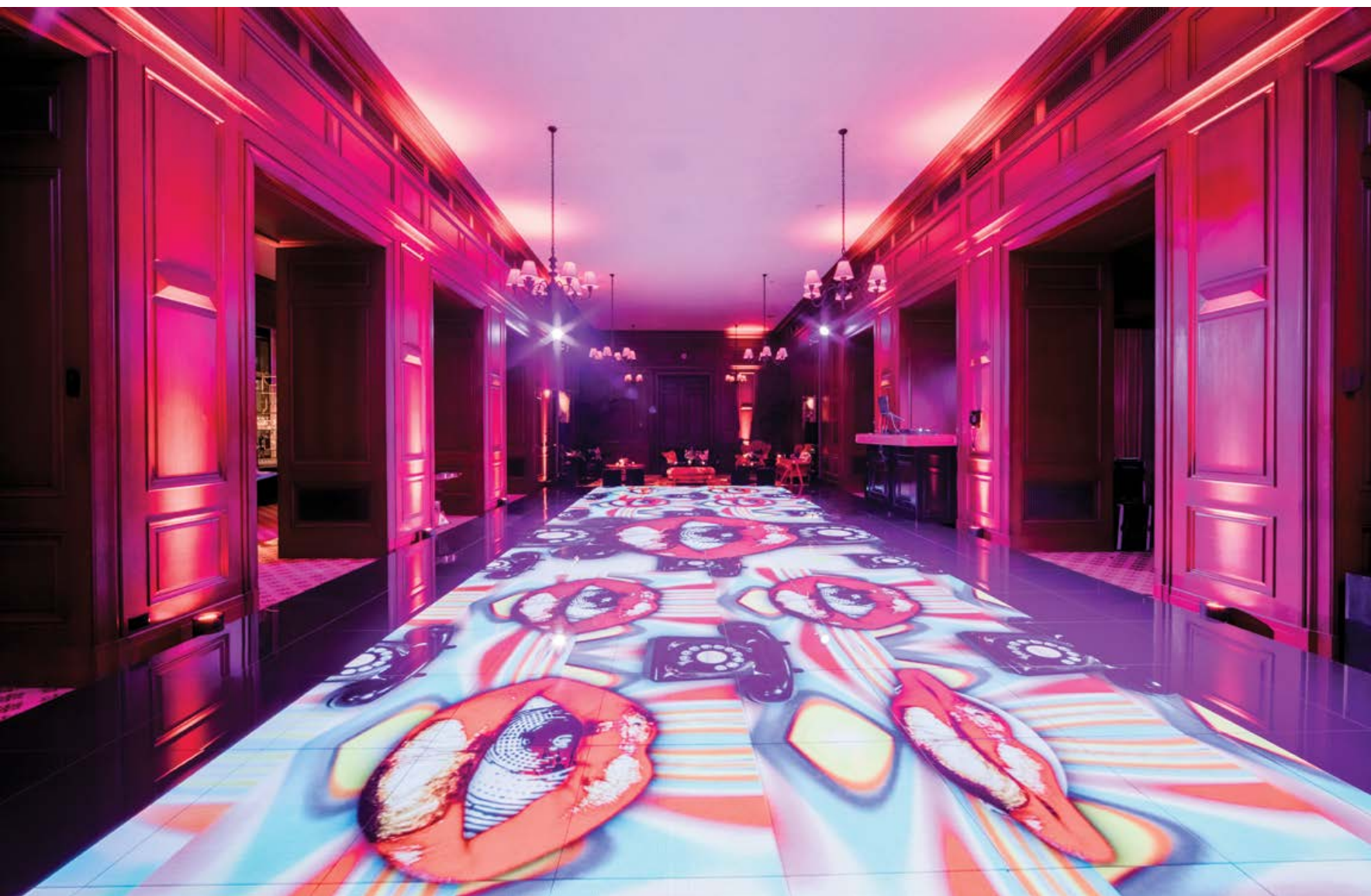
were paints on the canvas. It wasn't an event for event's sake. It really became about how all these pieces fit together like an orchestra."

Choreographing the night so each moment transitioned smoothly into the next was a production masterpiece in and of itself. For dinner, Marc brought in "ballet service," which involved a line of costumed waiters filing into the room, surrounding the tables, and placing the course before each guest at the same time. There was also a full waitstaff to monitor the *mise en place*, water and wine; and Matthew was tasked with timing everything down to the minute, so the aisles were clear when the ballet servers were ready to bring the next course.

"We created this whole thing as if the entire venue was the stage, and the guests were onstage with all the performers," he says. "The guests became a character in the show, and that's the exciting part that truly makes a difference."

As a three-course dinner was served over a span of two hours, guests were treated to one incredible form of entertainment after another. For each course—or "movement"—the waiters' costumes, live performers and visuals were coordinated to match the storyline that was unfolding. Even the famous Rockettes appeared in lobster costumes for a showstopping performance during the "Nautical New Wave" dinner movement, which was lobster served in a watermelon. To conclude the meal, a synchronized confetti blast by the 40 waiters took place around all 160 guests.





By venturing away from the idea of “this is how it’s supposed to be,” Marc and Matthew designed and produced a wildly creative event. Whether they were hanging pasta from hands or hiring four actors to be nuns who sat and played poker all night, their imaginations were truly limitless.

> Written by Lauren Malamala

For more stories and resources visit WeddingStyleMagazine.com





Location: **The California Club** Los Angeles, CA; Event Concept, Design and Creative Direction: **Marc Friedland, Marc Friedland Couture Communications** Los Angeles, CA; Executive Producer: **360 Design Events By Matthew David** New York, NY; Event Planning and Coordination: **Exquisite Events** Los Angeles, CA; Entertainment: **Elan Artists** New York, NY; Dessert Performance Artist: **Nicola Costantino**; Décor Design and Rentals: **Revelry Event Designers** Los Angeles, CA; Floral Design: **Celio's**

Design Los Angeles, CA; Catering and Service Consultant: **Kai's Catering + Events** Los Angeles, CA; Specialty Wines: **Wine Warehouse** Los Angeles, CA; Lighting: **Images by Lighting** Los Angeles, CA; Audio-Visual Production: **No Static Pro Audio Inc.** Burbank, CA; Onsite Logistics and Production: **Sir Rockman Productions** Los Angeles, CA; Photography: **Yvette Roman Photography** Los Angeles, CA



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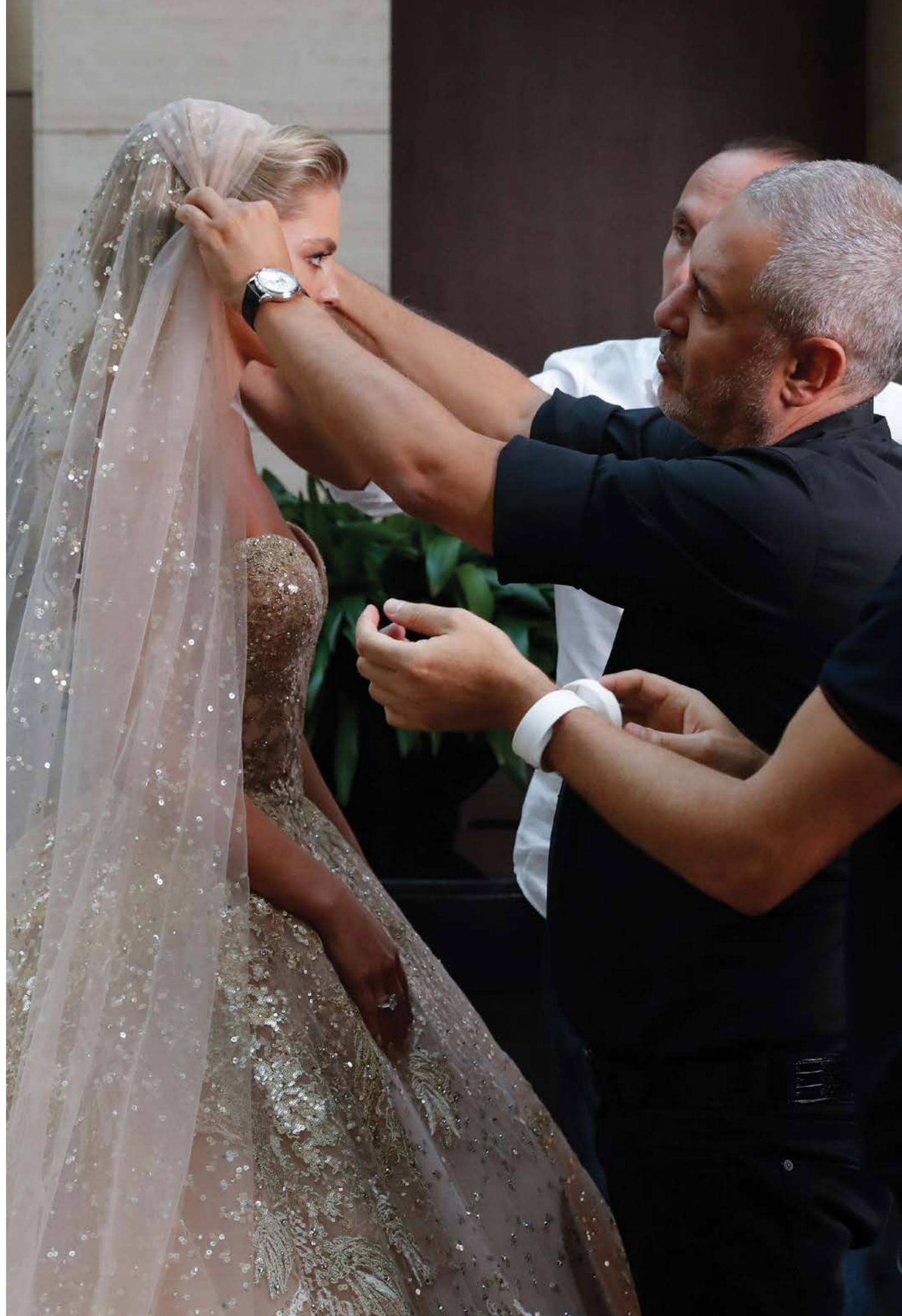
ELIE SAAB

CREATING THE LOOK FOR
HIS NEW DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

CHRISTINA MOURAD & ELIE SAAB JUNIOR
July 18-20, 2019. Faqra, Lebanon

Photography:
ParAzar Productions







Elie Saab is one of the most renowned names in the world of bridal couture. So, when his son, Elie Saab Junior, married Christina Mourad during an enchanting wedding in Lebanon, it was no surprise that the famed designer created an incredible collection of bridal ensembles for his new daughter-in-law to showcase.

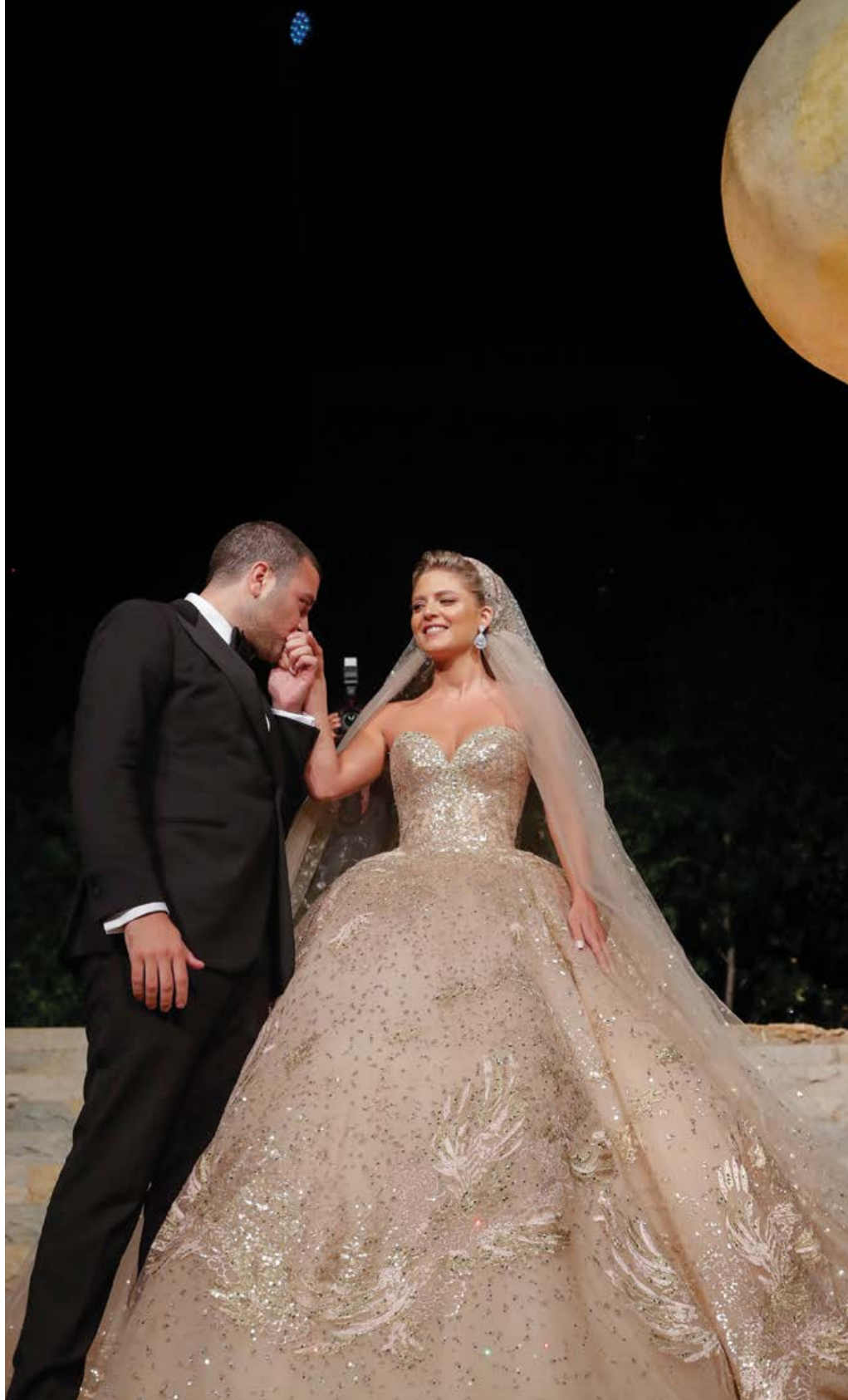
Even though Christina was a longtime friend of Elie's brother Celio, the two never met until 2018, when Celio hosted a party with several friends. Elie asked Christina to sit next to him,

thus marking the beginning of a whirlwind romance. Unbeknownst to Christina, an intimate proposal would quickly follow.

"We were invited to my parents' for dinner," she recalls, "and when we were still at home, Elie proposed. I did not expect it, as we were dating for a few months only. I was really surprised, but I immediately said, 'Yes.' He wanted to keep it simple."

While Elie was ready to get married immediately after their engagement, the couple needed





more time to plan their ceremony and design the bride's gowns. Christina mentions, "We worked hand in hand with two wedding planners, Neiman Azzi and Ziad Raphael Nassar, who did a fantastic job and made this celebration so special."

When it came to Christina's bridal wardrobe, the design process was not only a collaboration with her future father-in-law, but a rather serendipitous circumstance as well. "I met my father-in-law ten years ago," she explains. "On that day, I told him that my dream was to wear a dress designed by him on my wedding day. And ten years after, my dream came true. I met with him and we discussed my tastes and what I would feel comfortable wearing. We had the



same vision and saw eye-to-eye, so I felt at ease. We only had a few fittings. He created two unique gowns that perfectly suit who I am."

To match the scale and glamour of their wedding vision, the couple decided to return to their roots for a lavish destination affair. "We wanted to get married in Lebanon as we both grew up there, but also because the country offers the possibility to create different atmospheres with the mountains not too far from the city," says Elie. "We organized a three-day celebration that started with an oriental pre-cocktail party, followed by the religious ceremony the next day, and later on a 1,200-guest afterparty held in Faqra. The celebrations ended on the third day with a pool party in the mountains."

Christina and Elie were wed during a religious ceremony abiding by Lebanese and Maronite traditions. The bride wore a sleeveless gown with a high neckline, voluminous skirt, 4.5-meter train, and a matching veil and headpiece. It took a total of twelve embroiderers, three pattern makers, six tailors, three artwork designers and ten petites mains to create the gown made of tulle, silk and lurex embroidery, and half a million sequins. Later that evening, Christina changed into her second dress consisting of a heart-shaped corset, 650,000 gold sequins, 150,000 Swarovski





strass pieces, and a sequined veil—the final masterpiece after 450 hours of embroidery, 150 hours of moulage and volume creation, 80 hours of embroidery layout design, and 200 hours of tailoring.

Friends and family gathered for a lavish reception at the Faqra Club with high-profile guests including Dita Von Teese, Karolina Kurkova and Lily Donaldson. The party continued well into Saturday, with everyone gathering

once again at Elie Saab Senior's Faqra residence—the bride wearing a full-length aquamarine silk georgette dress from the Elie Saab Haute Couture Spring/Summer 2019 collection.

To cap off such an epic wedding experience, the newlyweds jetted off on a multi-destination honeymoon in Ibiza, Italy, the Swiss Alps and Turkey.

> Written by Lauren Malamala

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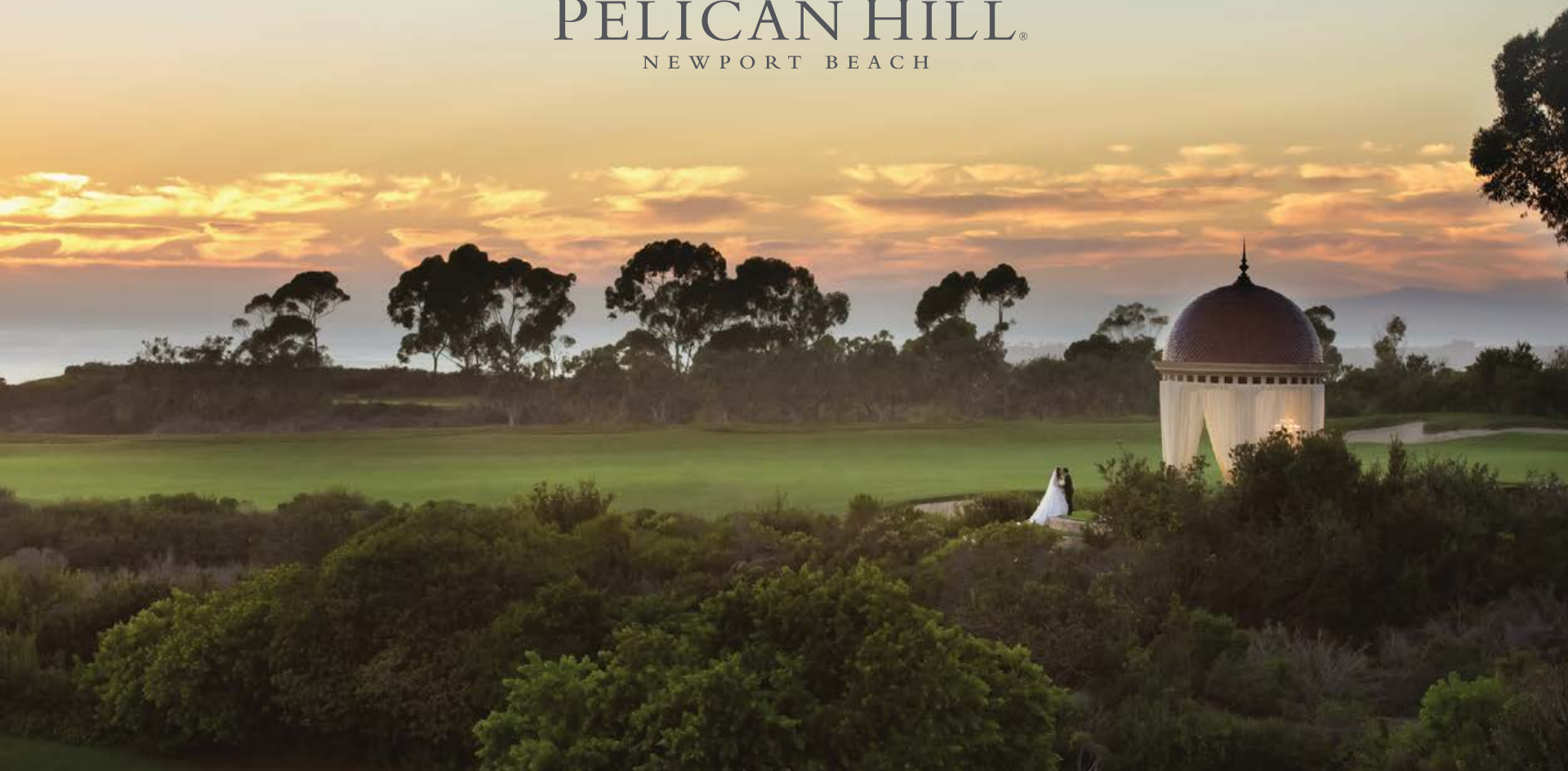
Ceremony Location: **Le Plateau de Bakish** Qanat Bakish, Lebanon; Reception Location: **Fakra Club** Fakra, Lebanon; Wedding Planners: **Neiman Azzi** and **Ziad Raphael Nassar** Beirut, Lebanon; Wedding Dresses: **Elie Saab**; Assistant Photographer: **German Larkin** Milan, Italy; Wedding Photography: **ParAzar Productions** Beirut, Lebanon

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“IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE
EXPERIENCE WE WANTED TO
CREATE FOR OUR GUESTS”

FIONA NASSEEM & TRENT REVIC

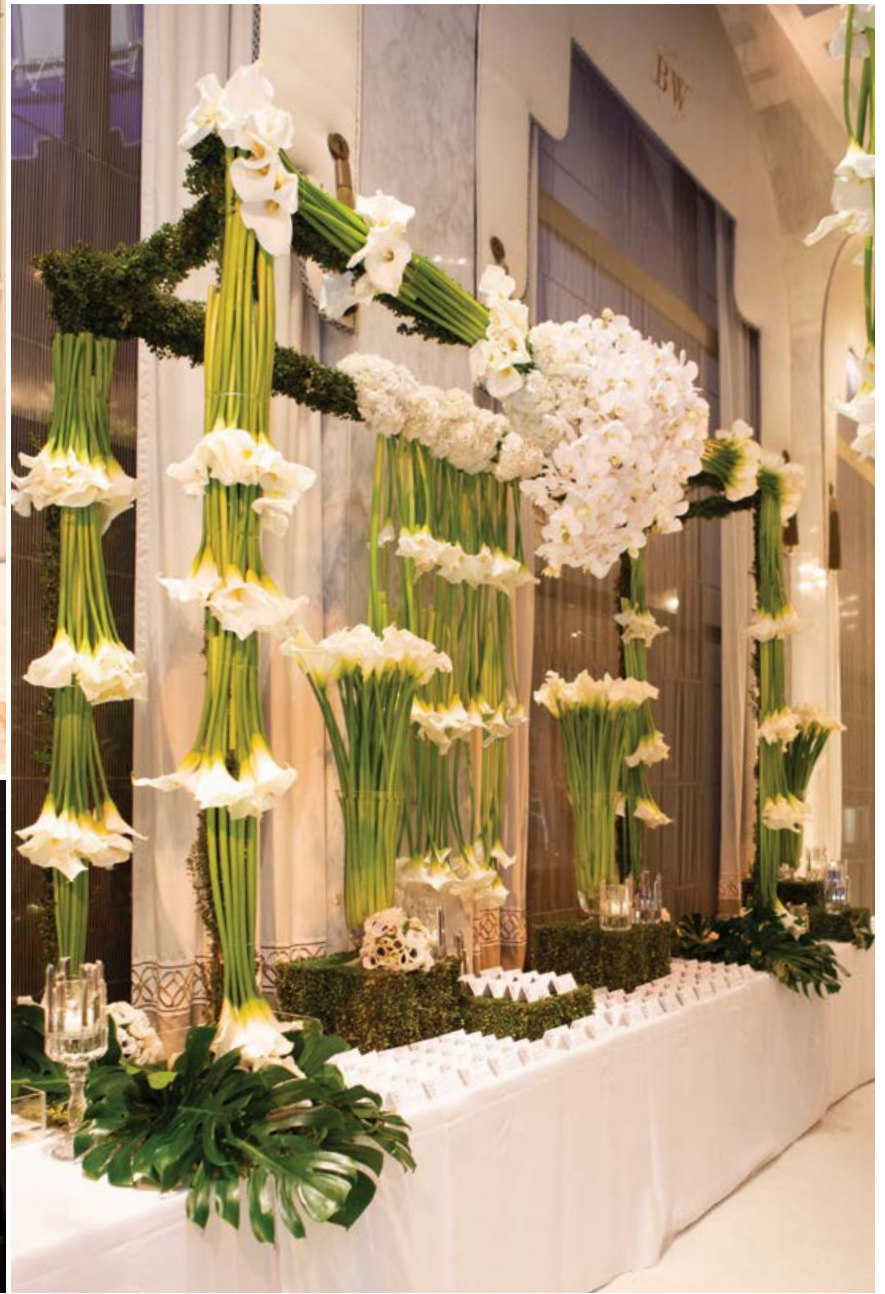
April 6, 2019. Beverly Hills, California

Photography:
Walker Studios









It was about three years ago when Fiona Nasseem and Trent Revis were first introduced through mutual friends in Marina del Rey, California. Trent had just moved from Australia for work a month prior, and his Australian accent was among the first things that caught Fiona's attention. One date was all it took to seal the deal.

When it came time to pop the question, Trent succeeded in pulling off the perfect surprise engagement. "I used to be a competitive horse rider for my whole life, and Trent is super thoughtful," Fiona shares. "He planned to take me to Santa Barbara. It was supposed to be my birthday celebration but a week late, to throw me off so I wouldn't know what was coming. We went to this gorgeous ranch and they have about 500 acres of land to ride around. We ended up on this cliff overlooking a lake, and it was just us and the guides."

Since Fiona and Trent have family around the world who were unable to travel long distances for a wedding, they decided to have two celebrations. The first was an intimate ceremony in Australia with family, which took place at a historic private estate. The newlyweds then departed for their honeymoon, spending a day in Singapore before continuing on to the Maldives. Once they returned home, it was



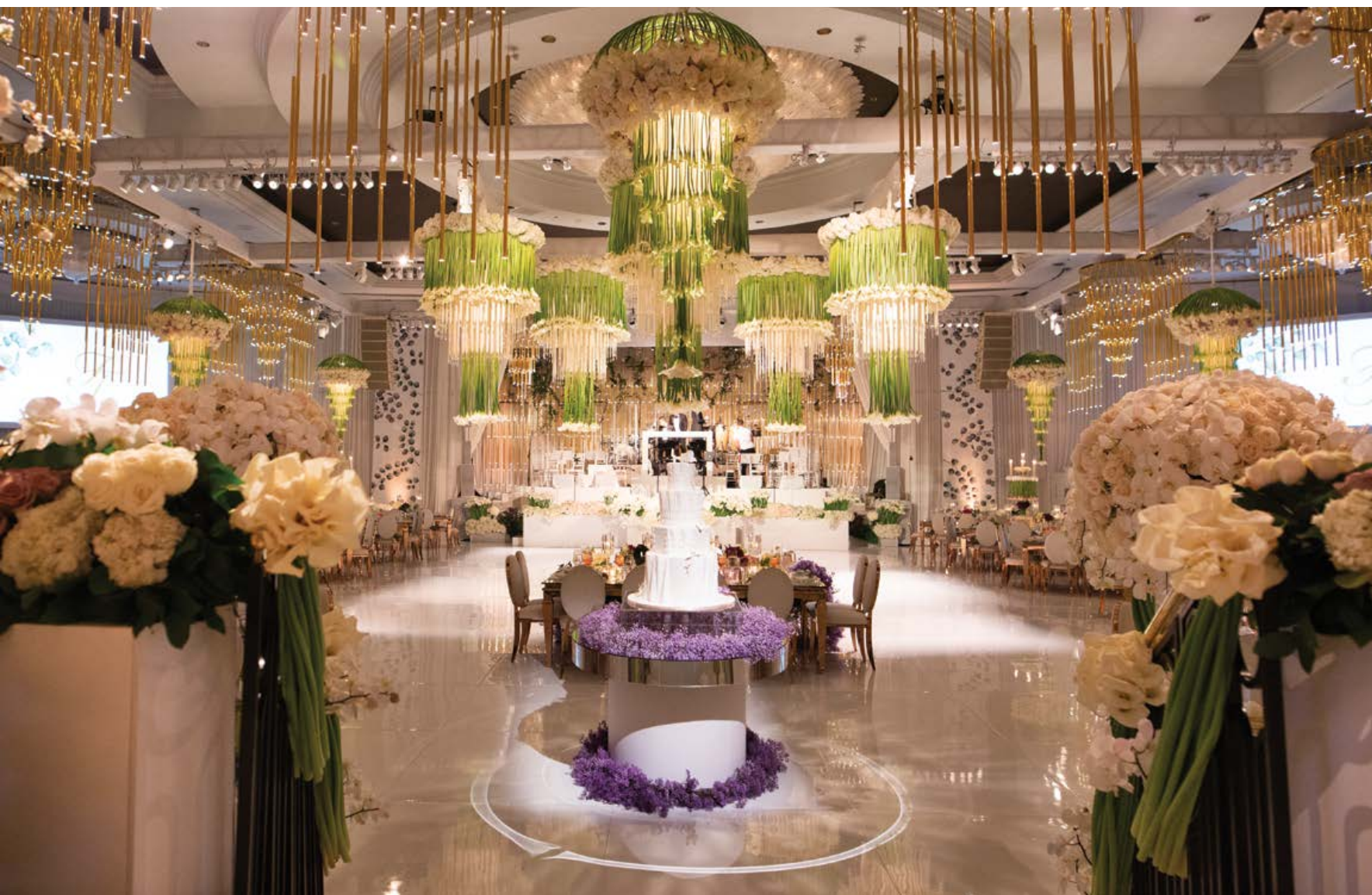


time to get ready for a lavish reception at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

More than anything, the couple wanted the wedding planning process to focus on their guests. “It was all about the experience we wanted to create for our guests,” Fiona describes. “I.E.C. was absolutely amazing. Even before we contracted with them, Jonathan spent over an hour on the phone with my mom, walking through all the details.”



The Lee Petra Grebenau dress Fiona chose ended up setting the tone for the wedding décor scheme, which was designed with a contemporary vision in mind. Despite being told that anything modern would be “too simple,” the bride knew she could take a younger,



more relevant aesthetic and have it leveraged into a showstopping reception space.

“I will take credit for this,” she says. “I was really pushing for modern. I did not want to do the same overabundance of grouped flowers you see in a lot of opulent weddings. I already found my dress at that point, and the dress was modern. We also designed the flower chandeliers together. I cannot stress how much effort and details the planners put into this—it was one of those things where you just had to be there. I had planned it, and my breath would still catch when I looked around that room.”

Fiona’s father is an architect, so attention to detail was second to none. Every aspect of the wedding was considered, including the color of the drinks that were served and how they would look on the table. He even had a collection of tailored outfits brought in for the waitstaff and organized a choreographed ballroom dance with professional performers, adding yet another carefully planned layer to the guest experience.

“The morning of the Beverly Wilshire wedding was the coolest thing, because Trent and I had so much time together,” Fiona states. “We woke up and had our breakfast and got ready. The best part of the day for us was taking photos and driving around in my dad’s old Jaguar. It was like royal wedding vibes.”

>Written By: Lauren Malamala

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Location: **Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel** Beverly Hills, CA; Planner: **International Event Company** Beverly Hills, CA; Event Design: **Revelry Event Designers** Los Angeles, CA; Floral Design: **Mark's Garden** Los Angeles, CA; Wedding Dress: **Lee Petra Grebenau**; Bridal Salon: **Kinsley James Couture Bridal** Los Angeles, CA; Groom's Attire: **Custom Favourbrook** London;

Rentals: **Town & Country Event Rentals** Van Nuys, CA; Lighting: **MJ Lighting & Decor** Los Angeles, CA; Linen: **Luxe Linen** Carson, CA; Cakes: **Joanie & Leigh's Cakes** Los Angeles, CA; Entertainment: **LA Follies** Venice, CA; Photography: **Walker Studios** Los Angeles, CA

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“IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MORE PERFECT WEEK.”

TIFFANY MARIE BRANNON & JUSTIN SIEGEL

September 27, 2018. **Somerset, England**

Photography:
Linas Dambrauskas



Blind dates don't typically lead to anything but horror stories, but for Tiffany Marie Brannon and Justin Siegel, a blind date led to marriage. After a few too many glasses of champagne at her sister's wedding, Tiffany asked a family friend to set her up with a nice guy. A few weeks later that friend gave her a call—she'd just had lunch with US Ambassador Siegel and his wife, and they'd talked about their single son, Justin.

With a little prodding (his mother pretty much forced him to go on the blind date), the two headed to Soho House in West Hollywood,



where they hit it off over the club's legendary warm chocolate chip cookies and a little political sparring.

"I was surprised by how smart he was and how much we had in common on such a variety of subjects. And he was funny!" Tiffany says. "We ended up closing Soho down that night and didn't even realize we'd been talking for four hours straight until we got a tap on the shoulder saying we were the last ones left in the building."

The next few years had some ups—they got engaged in Scotland and planned an Oxfordshire wedding—and one major down: they broke up six months after that first engagement. They got back together when Justin showed up on Tiffany's thirtieth birthday at their original wedding venue, and he proposed again on a secret beach in Malibu.

They knew they still wanted to get married in England—both Tiffany and Justin attended Cambridge University and





Oxford University for their Master's degrees in Theology—but the venues they wanted were already booked. Then a week after that second engagement Tiffany got a call out of the blue from Babington House, the Soho House property in the English countryside that was her dream wedding venue. She'd put her name on the waitlist the first time around just in case, and they called to tell her they'd had a cancellation four months out. "I jumped at the chance and said yes!" Tiffany says.

So they got to work putting together a romantic, artistic, platinum-themed wedding week that friends and family wouldn't forget. "More than anything, I wanted our wedding to be a magical, ethereal experience full of pure joy," Tiffany says. "Justin and I are both creatives and art freaks, so we wanted there to be lavish details from our favorite works of literature, music and art. Including the chocolate chip cookies from our first date."

Those details included hand-painted wedding stationery, incredible bands from all over the world, an artist who illustrated each guest at the reception and a truly stunning wedding gown. The dress, designed by Paul Vasileff, creator of haute couture house Paolo Sebastian, featured blue embroidered nightingales, swallows and hummingbirds to represent special memories and family members.

A vintage red double-decker bus transported everyone to the ceremony at St. Andrew's

Church, a gorgeous thirteenth-century country parish, before the party started at Babington House. Wildabout Flowers nailed the magical, enchanted-forest feel that Tiffany wanted, leaving guests in awe of the décor.

"It was everything I could have hoped for," Tiffany says. "It could not have been a more perfect week. I still get texts from people asking us if we can throw a wedding every year to relive the magic and joy of that week together in Somerset. Also, everyone wants more of those chocolate chip cookies."

The couple enjoyed a month-long safari in Africa for their honeymoon and then spent a week in Mykonos and Santorini before heading back to the UK.

> **Written by Allyson Reedy**

For more feature weddings and resources visit WeddingStyleMagazine.com

Ceremony Location: **St. Andrew's Church** Mells, England; Reception Location: **Babington House** Somerset, England; Planner: **Lorde & Haven** England; Floral Design: **Wildabout Flowers** London, England; Ceremony Dress: **Paolo Sebastian**; Reception Dress: **Solace London**; Groom's Attire: **Custom Ralph Lauren**; Cake: **Bath Baby Cakes** Somerset, England; Vintage Bus: **First Choice Wedding Cars** Lychpit, England; Vintage Car: **Bath Classic Cars** Radstock, England; Assistant Photography: **Sergio Sandoná Photography** Amsterdam; Photography: **Linas Dambruskas** Italy

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“THE MOST MEMORABLE, MAGICAL NIGHT OF OUR LIVES.”

LAUREN BARNETTE & MATTHEW SANGER

August 28, 2019. **Lake Como, Italy**

Photography:
Tali Photography

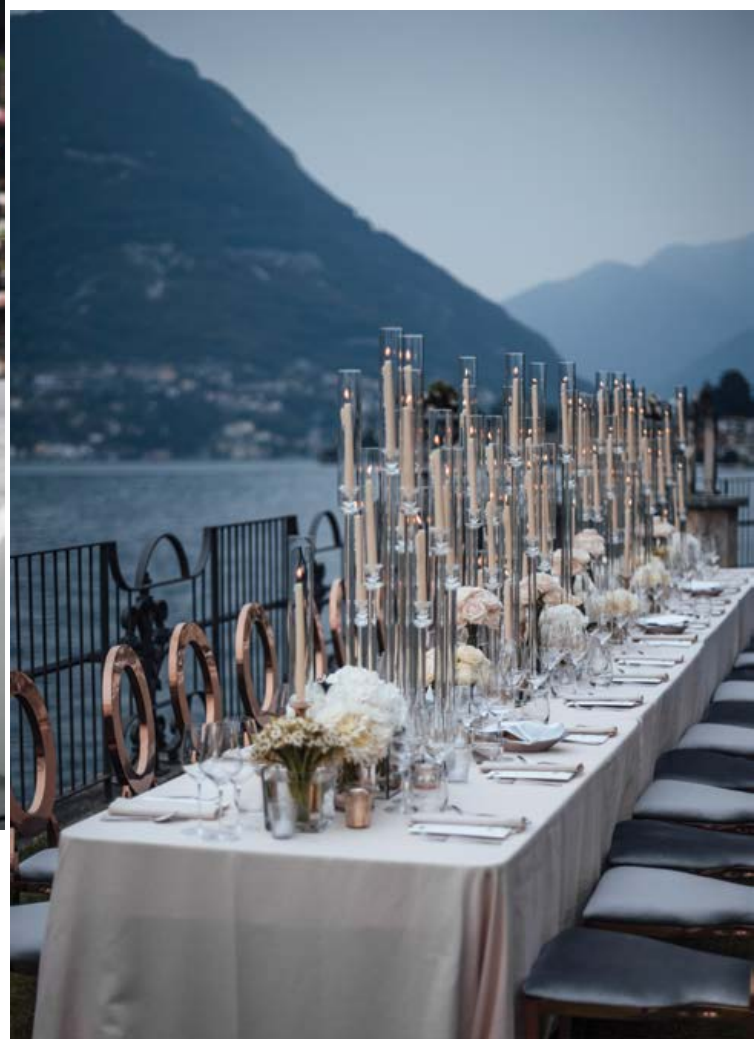


“You have to understand that in Los Angeles most people show up at a hotel pool in full makeup and lashes,” says Lauren Barnette, “but I was in casual mode, looking forward to a no-pressure girl’s day out hanging with a friend visiting town.” That friend, however, also invited a guy friend who invited Matthew Sanger along. “Matt had long hair, tattoos and was edgy and interesting enough to hold my attention,” says Lauren. Even so, when he asked for her phone number, she politely declined. “I had just gotten out of a relationship,” Lauren explains.



In the elevator, descending from the rooftop pool, Matthew surprised himself by declaring, “I don’t even know her, but I’m going to marry her.” Not to be deterred, he engineered a group dinner date and brunch, so he could see Lauren again.

Matthew introduced Lauren to his spontaneous globe-trotting ways, leading them to some of the most remote locales of the world. Together they explored more than 40 countries, so when he announced a trip to Vienna it was not surprising. What was different this time was that he asked her to pack a formal gown for the Vienna State Opera.





Meanwhile, Matthew was orchestrating an elaborate proposal. “Details matter,” he says. “I wanted everything to be perfect for her.” Layers of subterfuge included having a courier deliver the ring to Europe; dressing for the opera in Vienna, but driving past it; and fake dinner reservations and a private jet to Venice. Matthew’s plan to propose in St. Mark’s Square with photographers and many bouquets of her favorite blush-pink garden roses unfolded perfectly. “All I can remember were the bystanders clapping as we hugged and cried,” admits Matthew. The couple decided to share one of their favor-



ite places with guests by marrying at Villa Pizzo in Lake Como, Italy. “It’s like waking up in a storybook,” says Lauren. On their wedding day, however, it was gloomy and raining, but the skies cleared just in time. The outdoor ceremony, overlooking the lake and under a bower of Lauren’s blush pink garden roses, went off without a hitch, though both bride and groom say it was a blur. The intensity of the culmination of eight months of planning left Matthew at the altar willing himself to remain upright and





breathe, while Lauren, coming down the aisle between her mother and father, struggled not to cry. “The pictures of us are hilarious. We both look ready to pass out,” says Lauren, “but it was so beautiful and we were so overwhelmed with emotions.”

After a wardrobe change, the newlyweds made their way down a double staircase to the reception. They stepped up to the see-through dance floor revealing 20,000 live roses and danced for the first time as a married couple. “Being up there with all our loved ones’ faces smiling at us was surreal,” says Lauren. Music, speeches, dinner and dancing followed, making for “the most memorable, magical night of our lives,” she adds. As three flavors of cake topped with edible flowers were served under glass domes, the lights dimmed and fireworks, set to

music carefully programmed by Matthew, exploded the skies in a dramatic highlight.

A two-and-a-half-week honeymoon started by celebrating with friends in Saint-Tropez, and then helicoptering to a chartered yacht. The couple cruised Sardinia, Capri, Corsica and smaller islands for a week, snorkeling, exploring and relaxing. “My wedding diet went right out the window,” laughs Lauren. Then, on to Switzerland where Lauren says, “It’s so beautiful I felt like I was in the middle of *The Sound of Music*.” Lauren and Matthew returned to Los Angeles, where she says, “We are so excited to start the next chapter of our lives.”

> **Written by Francine Kaplan**

For more feature weddings and resources visit WeddingStyleMagazine.com

Location: **Villa Pizzo** Lake Como, Italy; Planner: **Exclusive Italy Weddings** Venice, Italy; Event and Floral Design: **Vincenzo Dascanio Event Production** Milan, Italy; Wedding Dresses: **Galia Lahav**; Groom’s Attire: **Tom Ford**; Photography: **Tali Photography** Cologne, Germany

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“...HE TOTALLY BLEW ME AWAY. HE SPOKE FROM THE HEART, AND IT WAS SO GOOD.”

ELYSE HART-SHELTON & ALEC BURKS

August 10, 2019. **Miami, Florida**

Photography:
PS Photography



Alec Burks is a quiet, reserved guy. So much so that when he first saw Elyse Hart-Shelton at a friend's birthday party in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, he had his friend approach her because he was too shy to say hello. Elyse was having none of that, though, and she insisted that Alec talk to her himself. Eventually he did, and the two felt a special connection right away.

Fast forward a few years to their daughter Ashtyn's first birthday party. They were helping her open presents when Alec said he had one more gift.



“I honestly didn’t even know where he was in the room until I turned around and he was down on one knee,” Elyse says. “I almost had a heart attack. I started bawling. I was totally unprepared—I was even wearing a unicorn crown—but it was perfect.”

For their wedding location, the couple didn’t want to choose between their Missouri hometowns, so they picked a locale that they both loved—Miami.

“We wanted to give our families a chance to get away and have a reason to go on vacation,” she says.

Both the ceremony and reception were held at the Four Seasons Hotel Miami, which was decked out in classic whites with hints of gold thrown in for a little bling. Roses and orchids made a statement, with the orchids cascading down from candelabras to create a major wow factor.

The ceremony was held in a more intimate room on-site, and it was filled with emotion. Alec, again normally so quiet and reserved, first shocked Elyse when he cried upon seeing her come down the aisle in her stunning Zuhair Murad dress, and then again with his personal, heartfelt vows.

“He had everybody crying,” Elyse says of his vows. “That was the highlight. I was so prepared for him to do the repeat after me





thing, and then he totally blew me away. He spoke from the heart, and it was so good.”

After the vows, two-and-a-half-year-old Ashtyn joined her parents for her own special ceremony. Elyse and Alec got her a heart-shaped diamond necklace to symbolize their commitment to her, and they both put it around her neck.

“She was so excited. She wears it all the time,” Elyse says.

Alec, who had only attended one wedding before his own, wanted to start his own family wedding tradition, so he incorporated broom jumping into the ceremony. Following all of that emotion and fun, guests got a surprise as they walked across the skybridge to the ballroom for the reception. Fireworks were the perfect way to kick off the high-energy party, which had people on the dance floor all night.

Because Alec plays in the NBA and had just signed with the Golden State Warriors, the couple didn’t get a honeymoon immediately following their summer wedding. Instead, they headed to San Francisco for house-hunting, but they have even bigger plans for next year.

“We want to expand our family,” Elyse says. “Plus, we got to travel to Miami, and we were with our family, so it was almost like we had a vacation/wedding all together.

> Written by Allyson Reedy

For more feature weddings and resources visit WeddingStyleMagazine.com





Location: **Four Seasons Hotel Miami** Miami, FL; Planner: **Marylen Exposito Weddings & Experiences** Miami, FL; Floral and Event Design: **Gilded Group Decor** Doral, FL; Wedding Dress: **Zuhair Murad**; Bridal Salon: **Ever After** Miami, FL; Groom's Wedding Band: **Cartier**; Engagement Ring and Wedding Band: **Meierotto Jewelers** Kansas City, MI; Lighting: **PSID Group** Miami, FL; Sparklers: **Maxon Productions** Doral, FL; Photography: **PS Photography** Miami, FL

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“THE WEDDING WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE NIGHT BEFORE IT WAS EXCITING... EVERYBODY WAS JUST SO HAPPY.”

YULI OMRI & AVNER DAHAN

June 28, 2019. **Lake Como, Italy**

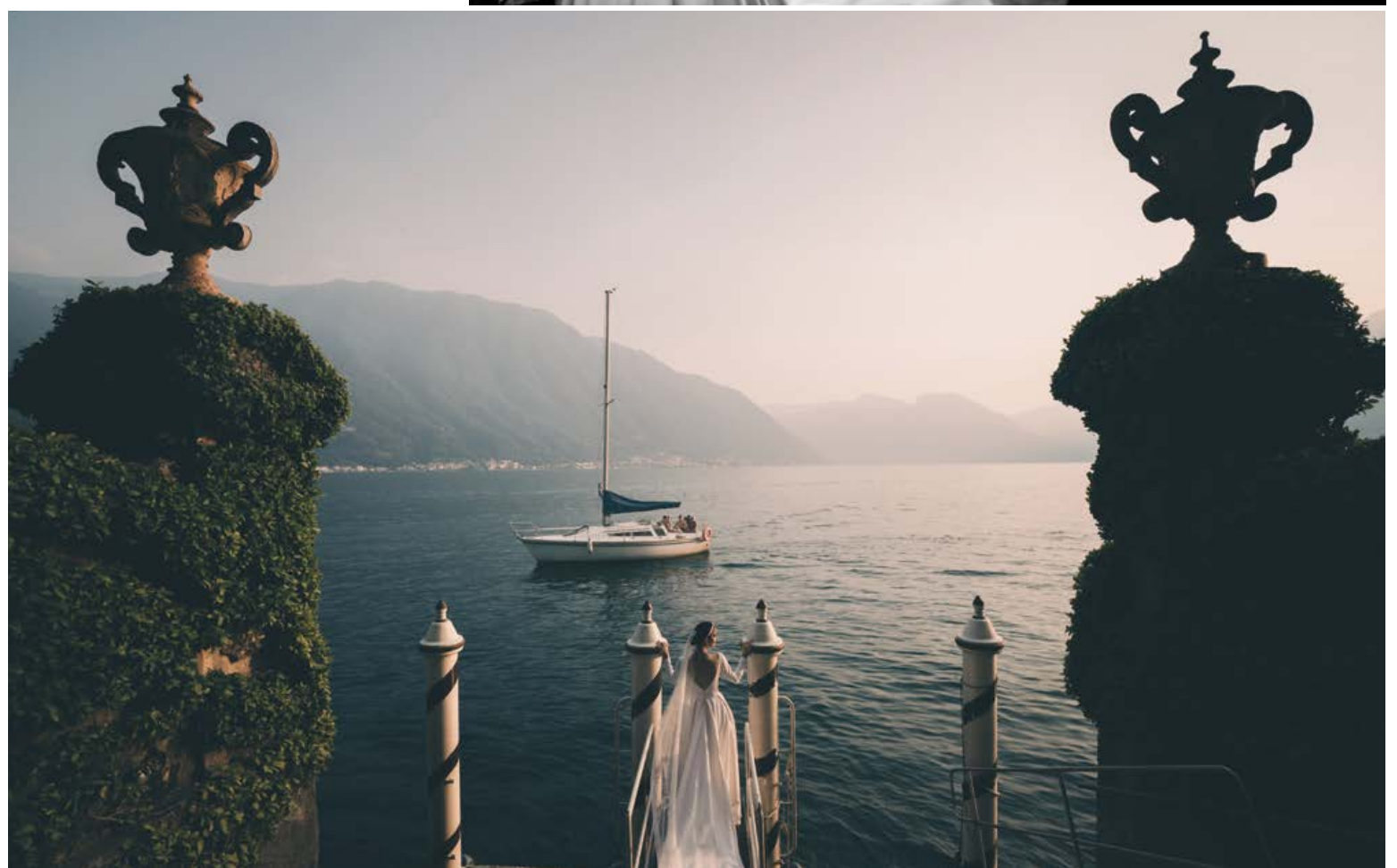
Photography:
Cristiano Ostinelli Studio

It didn't take long for Yuli Omri and Avner Dahan to know that they wanted to spend their lives together.

“About six months after we met, it was obvious,” Yuli says. “It took six months for us to know that we were going to get married. We got to the point where we said, ‘OK, let’s choose the diamond and make the ring together.’”

The couple was equally certain about where they wanted to host their wedding weekend: at Villa del Balbianello in Italy’s storied Lake Como. Yuli, who studied in Milan, was very familiar with Lake Como and the spectacular villas that line its shores. One of the most iconic—and stunningly gorgeous—is Villa del Balbianello.

“I knew Villa del Balbianello well, long before I knew my husband. I loved this place,” Yuli says.





When she brought Avner to the charming villa on Lake Como's western shore, he, too, fell in love and agreed that it was the perfect locale for their wedding. For the weekend-long event, they flew in 75 of their closest friends and family members, most coming from Israel (where the couple lives), and put everyone up in the same hotel so it would feel like a long holiday.

On the first night, the couple hosted an informal white party for everyone, which served as both a rehearsal dinner and an introduction for the guests.

"The place on the lake is so beautiful, so we wanted people to see a bit and get to know the villas," Yuli says.

On the wedding day, Yuli got ready at the Grand Hotel Tremezzo, where she put her fashion design education to good use. The bride designed all three of her dresses herself, using impeccable silk hand-selected from a traditional Lake Como factory.

"All of my dresses were very simple silhouettes, but the fabrics were amazing," she says. The elegant gowns were beautifully complemented by a hand-sewn, French silk tulle veil and sparkly hairpieces and jewelry created by Israeli designers.

The only way to get to Villa del Balbianello is via boat, so guests arrived in dramatic style to watch the couple exchange vows on the picturesque terrace overlooking the lake. Because the property's gardens are already so magnificent,





the couple chose to keep the décor understated and natural.

She chose a classic green and white color scheme to match the Villa, using lots of greenery and white roses. They didn't have to do much, though, considering the property and the view are among the world's most breathtaking.

The next morning, Yuli and Avner said goodbye to everyone over a relaxed, Italian-style brunch.

"The wedding was all beautiful, and the night before it was all exciting, but the day after everybody was just so happy. When we

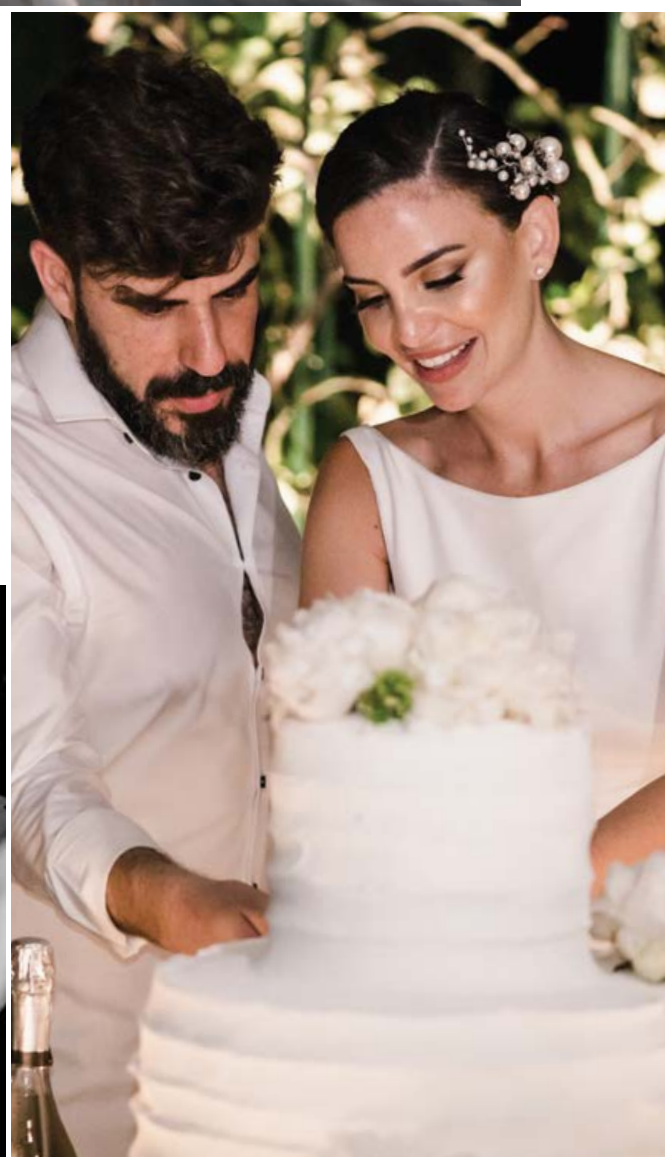
did the brunch and said goodbye to everybody, that's what I enjoyed the most," Yuli says.

The couple stayed on in Italy for a week after the wedding for a mini honeymoon, traveling through Tuscany and Lago d'Orta, and they're planning a longer trip through central America for their one-year anniversary.

"The wedding trip was more of a holiday than a big stressful event for us," Yuli says. "I loved having a smaller group. It was so very beautiful, so very private."

> Written by Allyson Reedy

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Location: **Villa del Balbianello** Lake Como, Italy; Floral Design:
Haute Couture Flower Como, Italy; Wedding Dress: **Custom**
Design by the Bride; Photography: **Cristiano Ostinelli Studio**
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“IT FELT LIKE I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN HIM ALL MY LIFE”

EMELIA FORBAU & DAVID WOLFE

June 22, 2019. **Houston, Texas**

Photography:
Morgan Lynn Photography



“I wasn’t even going to go to my friend’s Thanksgiving weekend party,” says Emelia Forbau, but admits she is glad she did. Showing up when the gathering was in full swing, she was introduced to David Wolfe and they hit it off right away, exchanging numbers. A few days later, they met for a quick casual coffee which became a six-hour talkathon that was as natural as catching up with an old friend. “It was so relaxed and easy it felt like I might have known him all my life,”

explains Emelia. They became best friends, then a couple, and a little over a year later were engaged.

David flew with her from Houston to New Mexico after Christmas to meet her family. Taking her father aside, he respectfully asked permission to marry Emelia. That afternoon David, Emelia, her father and grandfather went hiking in the Sierra Blanca mountains, one of her favorite places. At the highest point, her dad created a diversion by

snapping her picture, while David went down on one knee with the ring. “I was stunned when I turned and saw him,” says Emelia. “I had no idea it was coming.” When she said “yes,” other hikers at the peak cheered.

So wedding guests would not melt in Houston’s summer heat, the bride opted for an indoor venue at the Hotel ZaZa. “I loved everything about it,” says Emelia. “If I was a hotel, I’d be the ZaZa.”

Emelia’s childhood pastor personalized the traditional ceremony, while David unwittingly provided a lighthearted moment. “I put the ring on her finger,” he says, “and then held out my hand.” Emelia struggled with his ring when it would not go over his knuckle, until he realized he had offered up the wrong hand. “It was a moment of comic relief that relaxed everyone and made the ceremony so memorable,” explains David.

Having worked at a floral shop, Emelia knew her flowers and let her choices dictate the décor. Fragrant roses, orchids and lilies in white, cream and ivory with gold accents created an elegant ambiance with modern touches. Providing options for their friends and family to stay hydrated was important to



the couple, so along with the full bar there was a mocktail menu and a Starbucks barista, guaranteeing that no one ran the risk of being thirsty.

“It was incredible that all these important people from throughout our lives took time off from busy schedules and traveled long distances to celebrate with us,” says Emelia. Seated guests welcomed the newlyweds as they entered the reception for their first dance as a married couple. “Because we’re both really bad dancers, we took lessons,” says





Emelia, “but we never practiced with my gown and heels, and even though that caused some issues, it was still lots of fun.” To capture the moment for all time, an artist took photos and then produced a painting of them, providing a keepsake to cherish and entertainment as guests watched the portrait’s progress.

“After that,” says David, “It was all one big blur of delicious food and drinks, good music and a great party.” The band’s quitting time was extended as the celebration continued into the morning hours.

According to Emelia, many things about the wedding “just fell into place,” as did the honeymoon. “Paris was a city we always talked about visiting together, so it was the natural choice,” she says. They arrived with a detailed itinerary, but tossed it aside to stroll around, explore at will and just enjoy being together in the city of love.

> Written by Francine Kaplan

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Location and Caterer: **Hotel ZaZa Houston Museum District** Houston, TX; Planner: **Ann Whittington Events** Houston, TX; Floral and Event Design, Rentals and Linen: **Plants n' Petals** Houston, TX; Wedding Dress: **Ines Di Santo**; Bridal Salon: **Joan Pillow Bridal Salon** Houston, TX; Lighting: **360 AV Design** Cypress, TX; Live Event Painter: **Laura Jane Fine Art** Laguna Niguel, CA; Cake: **SusieCakes** Houston, TX; Stationery: **Events Gifts** Houston, TX; Calligraphy: **Karla Hamilton Calligraphy** Houston, TX; Photography: **Morgan Lynn Photography** Houston, TX

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GRACE ORMONDE WEDDING STYLE

> CEREMONY AND RECEPTION DÉCOR:

WHITE

Modern outdoor ceremony with a reflective aisle and an all-white floral display consisting of roses, hydrangea, phalaenopsis orchids, crystal garlands and thousands of rose petals.

Location: **Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat, A Four Seasons Hotel** Saint-Jean Cap-Ferrat, France; Planner: **Mindy Weiss Party Consultants** Beverly Hills, CA; Floral and Event Design: **Roni Floral Design** Antibes, France; Linen: **Nüage Designs** New York, NY; Furniture and Rentals: **Deco-Flamme** Antibes, France; Lighting: **Blunotte Eventi** Chiasso, Italy; Photography: **Lionel Bouffier Creation** Antibes, France

PARTY







Custom ceremony created above the hotel pool features oversized floral arches decorated with white long-stem roses.

Location: **Four Seasons Resort and Residences Anguilla** Anguilla; Event Design and Planner: **Norma Cohen Productions** New York, NY; Floral Design: **Vincenzo Dascanio Studio** Milan, Italy; Lighting and Sound: **Faks Productions** New York, NY; Flooring: **BEP Services** Anguilla; Caterer: **Foremost Ram Caterers** Moonachie, NJ; Photography: **Christian Oth Studio** New York, NY



Simple and romantic ceremony
amongst the lush green gardens features
hundreds of white roses.

Location: **Greystone Mansion** Beverly
Hills, CA; Event Design and Planner: **Aliana
Events** Los Angeles, CA; Floral Design:
Celio's Design Los Angeles, CA; Rentals:
Revelry Event Designers Los Angeles, CA;
Photography: **Rene Zadori Photography**
Los Angeles, CA





Intimate bridal shower with a black-and-white theme featuring floral centerpieces adorned with black-and-white anemones.

Location: **Private Residence** Santa Ysabel, CA;
Event Design and Planner: **Aliana Events** Los Angeles, CA; Floral and Event Design: **Eddie Zaratsian Lifestyle and Design** Los Angeles, CA; Favors: **Jo Malone**; Linen: **La Tavola Fine Linen** Napa, CA; Photography: **Katie Beverley** Oceanside, CA





GRACE ORMONDE WEDDING STYLE



A secret garden theme reception composed of tulips and a variety of roses accented by candles.

Location: **Trump National Golf Club**
Los Angeles, CA; Planner: **Elegant Events**
Orange County, CA; Floral and Event Design:
White Lilac Inc. Costa Mesa, CA; Chairs:
Chiavari Chair Rentals Costa Mesa, CA;
Lighting and Draping: **Amber Event**
Production Anaheim, CA; Photography:
KLK Photography Irvine, CA

Blossoming floral tree installations sit as a focal point for round tables adorned with roses and votives.

Location: **The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort** Miami Beach, FL; Planner: **Sari Sosa Events** Miami, FL; Floral and Event Design: **Tantawan Bloom** Miami, FL; Lighting: **Pete Diaz Productions** Miami, FL; Chairs and Table Rentals: **Decora Event Rentals** Doral, FL; Photography: **Unique Design Studios** Miami, FL





A Motown-themed dinner features white phalaenopsis orchids, hydrangea and roses accented with black and gold details.

Location: **The Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa** Costa Mesa, CA; Planner: **Sarah Stowell, Details Details** Los Angeles, CA; Floral and Event Design: **White Lilac Inc.** Costa Mesa, CA; Lighting: **Amber Event Production** Anaheim, CA; Photography: **KLK Photography** Irvine, CA









Modern vases display an array of lush white and pink blossoms atop plexiglass tables filled with matching florals.

127

Location: **Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel** Beverly Hills, CA; Floral and Event Design, Rentals: **White Lilac Inc.** Costa Mesa, CA; Chairs: **Chiavari Chair Rentals** Costa Mesa, CA; Lighting: **LIV Entertainment Group, Inc.** Culver City, CA; Detail and Décor Photography: **KLK Photography** Irvine, CA



Modern chuppah embellished with hydrangea and cascading phalaenopsis orchids against a mirrored gold backdrop.

Location: **Congregation Shaare Zion** Brooklyn, NY; Event Design and Planner: **Norma Cohen Productions** Brooklyn, NY; Floral Production: **Floral Art Studio** Brooklyn, NY; Chairs: **Luxe Event Rentals & Décor** Brooklyn, NY; Carpet: **Alan Party & Tent Rentals** South Hackensack, NJ; Rentals: **Almar Party & Tent Rentals** Irvington, NJ; DJ: **Faks Productions** New York, NY; Photography: **Fred Marcus Studio** New York, NY



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The world has no shortage of incredible places to honeymoon, whether couples are in the mood for a tropical getaway or a luxurious hideaway in Europe. While various cities are often labeled as the “it place” in terms of trends, there are several destinations where discerning travelers and newlyweds return to year after year. More often than not, these locations offer an idyllic combination of sand, sea, and romance—the ultimate trifecta for an unforgettable honeymoon.

One of the most popular honeymoon destinations is the Caribbean, where tourism reigns supreme and visitors can spend an entire holiday without ever leaving their resort. For a more authentic experience, however, the small island of Anguilla is renowned for blending local culture and untouched natural beauty with a sophisticated and personalized approach to service. Clear waters and colorful reefs surround this British territory; unpaved roads uphold the low-key lifestyle of the tropics; and sunset marks the beginning of a vibrant nightlife scene filled with live music.





THIS PAGE:
Belmond Cap Juluca
belmond.com



GRACE OPMONDE WEDDING STYLE



THIS PAGE:

Conrad Bora Bora Nui
conradhotels.com



GRACE ORMONDE WEDDING STYLE



Staying at the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Anguilla gives couples the opportunity to sample everything the island has to offer while staying in a spacious and modern beachfront villa. Days are filled with water sports, spa treatments, poolside relaxation, and sumptuous seafood dinners, followed by vintage rum cocktails and Cuban cigars in the Sunset Lounge. With views of Barnes Bay and live bands performing a mix of Reggae and European tunes, the lounge is always a favorite nighttime hangout for visitors.

For a slower, more relaxed honeymoon with endless pampering, Belmond Cap Juluca is a restful haven where newlyweds can unwind within the privacy of their own pool suite or villa. Four restaurants serve up dishes made with fresh produce harvested from the Belmond Cap Juluca garden, and Pimms is among the most romantic restaurants in Anguilla.

Off the coast of Spain, newlyweds may indulge in a more European approach to island luxury. Located in the Balearic Islands, Cap Rocat is a five-star hotel in Mallorca that boasts panoramic views, an award-winning spa and a rich history. As a refurbished nineteenth-century fortress,



THIS PAGE:
Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay
nobuhotelibizabay.com



the architecture at Cap Rocat is mesmerizing, and a drawbridge provides an even greater sense of exclusivity and seclusion. A private beach also provides direct access to the sea, should couples wish to take a dip.

Alternatively, Nobu Ibiza has a chic ambiance of white, blue and gold for a honeymoon in Spain's swankiest destination. Here, couples can enjoy everything at their leisure, and schedules are to be forgotten. Lazy days by the sea may lead to sunset cocktails and an endless stream of sushi rolls; and perhaps a night or two of nonstop partying.

The South Pacific continues to be synonymous with paradise, as its warm waters, exotic atmosphere and welcoming culture are beyond enticing. More specifically, French Polynesia is a favorite honeymoon spot, and Conrad Bora Bora Nui is a prime location for overwater bungalows and romantic bliss. Situated on the private island of Motu To'opua, the



THIS PAGE:
Amanpulo
aman.com



resort features sugary sand beaches, plush accommodations, the finest of Pacific Rim cuisine and an enchanting lagoon. From champagne picnics prepared by Conrad chefs to swimming with sharks, Conrad Bora Bora Nui offers a utopic blend of adventure and luxury.

Although the Philippines may not be the most mainstream honeymoon destination, there's a reason why Amanpulo is frequented by luxury travelers worldwide. Amanpulo is more than a high-end resort—it's a private island accessible only by private plane. Surrounded by white sand and turquoise waters, comfort and seclusion are second to none, and a private chef and butler staff each villa. Whether newlyweds choose to pass their time scuba diving, getting couple's massages, or dining with their feet in the sand, a honeymoon at Amanpulo is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

> **Written by Lauren Malamala**

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> SPECIAL FEATURE:

LOVE BIRDS



THIS PAGE:

Charcoal and Ash
High Society Exhibition
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OPPOSITE PAGE:

Ocean
High Society Exhibition
leilajeffreys.com

Known for her ability to capture birds in their purest, most beautiful state, Leila Jeffreys produces portraits that are so much more than aesthetic showstoppers. Her artwork represents a deep respect for nature, a commitment to conservation and an all-encompassing concept of love—themes which make for a perfect wedding gift and an incredible addition to any couple's home.

Born in Papua New Guinea to a multicultural family, Leila credits her parents for igniting her passion for wildlife and the wilderness. The family traveled often, and her father was a

novice photographer as well. Today, Leila lives in Australia and continues to explore the globe with her portable studio, collecting exquisite portraits of her feathered friends.

"I didn't ever expect to exhibit my work," she shares, explaining how she took on bird-watching as a hobby during her 20s and 30s. "I became obsessed with the idea of doing a portrait of a bird back in 2008; and that was just for myself. If you look through binoculars, you can see all the details and expressions."

Leila has developed a signature style of photographing her subjects against a blank slate,





on exhibit at Olsen Gruin in New York City through January 19, 2020. This particular exhibition, aptly named “*High Society*,” includes a flock of 300 birds and three-panel video art.

“I spent my career focusing on the individual birds,” she explains, “but there’s also a society of birds. You see couples, singles and groups. Think of them as a different form of society.”

On a personal level, there’s a more significant meaning and reason behind these portraits. Leila’s passion for conservation is one of the greatest factors in her photography, and she aims to share the importance of conservation in a positive way rather than focusing on the “doom and gloom” of the planet.

“What I like to do is connect people by their hearts,” she states. “I think it’s important to talk about all the good things that are happening, because they don’t get the publicity they should. Lots of people are out there solving problems. It’s a life ambition of mine to leave the world in a better place while I’m here. It’s about meeting the bird and being a voice for them. It’s what drives me and that’s what I get excited about.”

“It connects to love,” she continues. “What’s really beautiful about it is you see these other species; and I hope I photograph them in a way that we see ourselves. It’s celebrating the beauty of wildlife, it’s celebrating all species on earth; and it supports me, which goes back to supporting these conservation organizations.” Her book of portraits, *Bird Love*, is also available for those who’d like to add a touch of art to their coffee table.

Leila recently traveled to Iceland to photograph puffins for her next collection, which she hopes to complete in 2021. The project will be focusing on seabirds; so, naturally, she is currently awaiting her opportunity to photograph the iconic albatross.

> Written by Lauren Malamala

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without the interference of scenery or background elements. Unlike other nature photographers and photojournalists, her process focuses solely on the birds and coaxes out their individual personalities over time.

“I can take two to four years to complete an exhibition,” she says. “It involves working with birds until they’re happy and comfortable to work with me. Sometimes, I’ll go and visit with one bird for a year before I get a portrait. It’s a slow, slow process but I think that’s what gets the results. You form a relationship with them.”

That level of dedication and genuine adoration for birds has resulted in Leila attracting a worldwide following, and her portraits are owned by celebrities such as Brooke Shields, Hugh Jackman and Elizabeth Hurley. Most recently, her collection of parakeet portraits is



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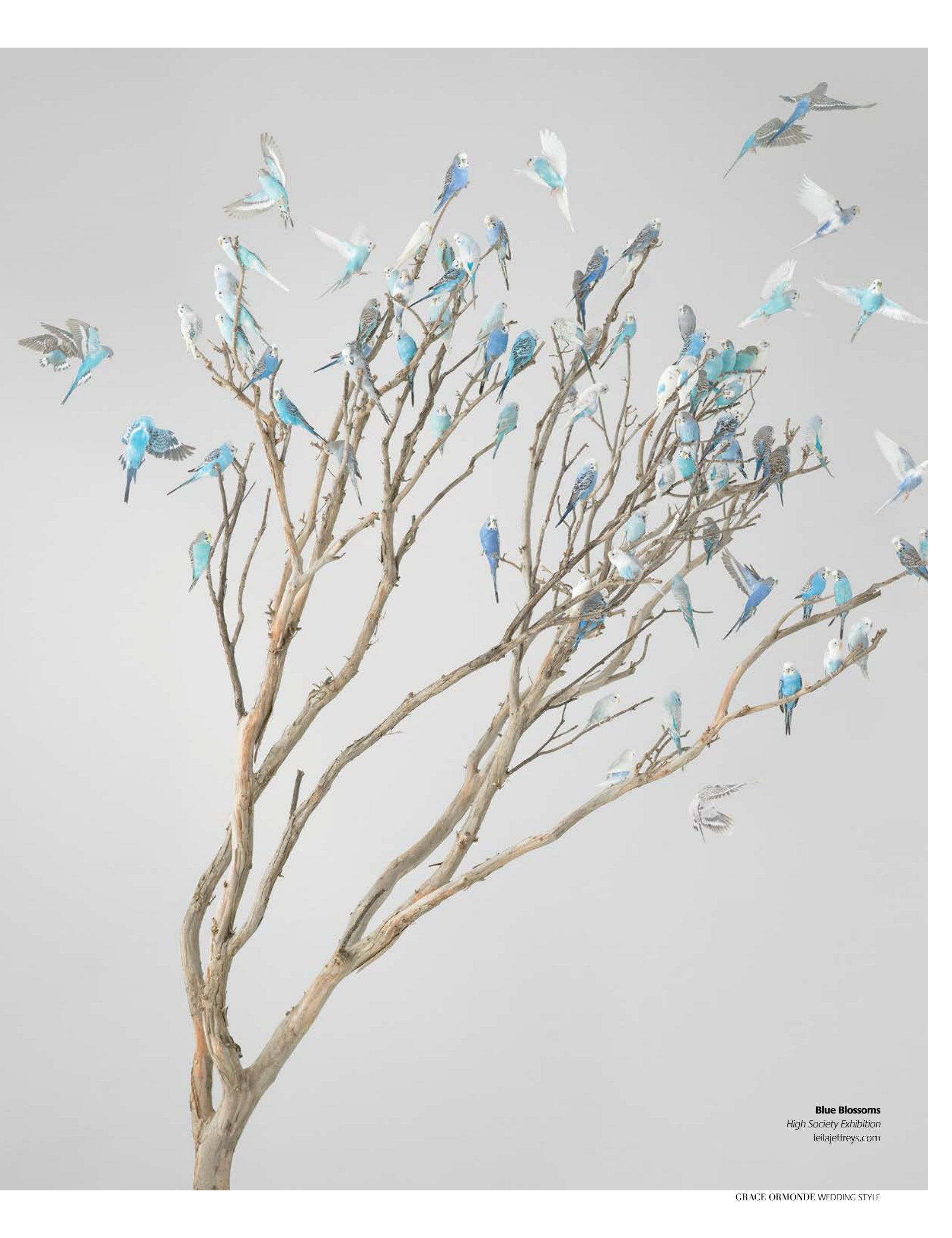
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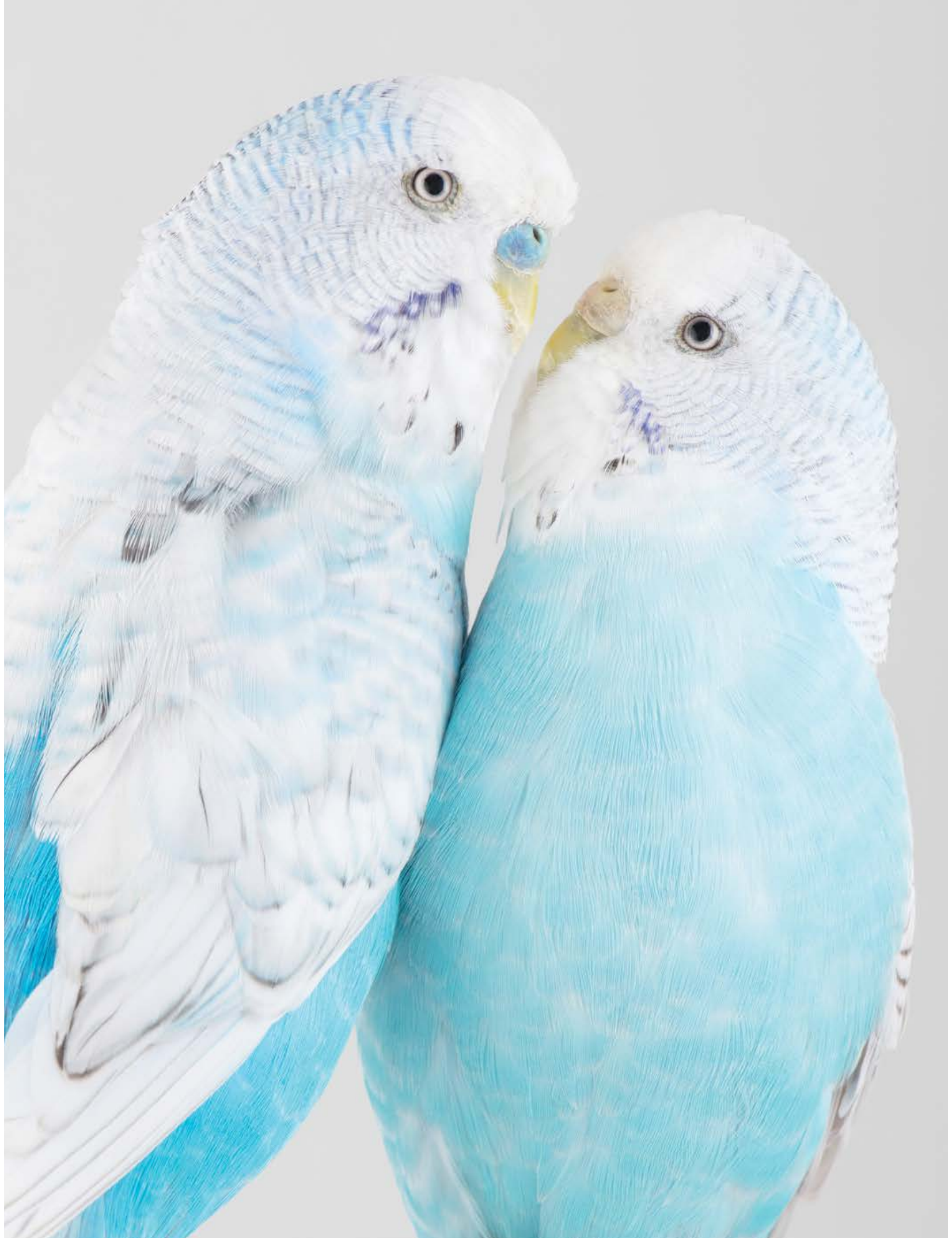
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4 Caskata School of Fish Blue Medium Oval Platter. \$45. caskata.com

5 Caskata School of Fish Blue Rectangle Platter. \$80. caskata.com

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Lisca; Cape: **Max Mara**;
Shoes: **Musette**





OPPOSITE PAGE:

Location: **Four Seasons Resort and Residences, Anguilla**; Dress, Bodysuit and Cape: **Berta**; Shoes: **Amina Means-AM Solemates**

THIS PAGE:

Location: **Four Seasons Resort and Residences, Anguilla**; Bodysuit and Cape: **Ines Di Santo**; Shoes: **Amina Means-AM Solemates**

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Location: **Four Seasons
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OPPOSITE PAGE:

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OPPOSITE PAGE:
Location: **Belmond Cap
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Juluca, Anguilla**; Dress: **Eisen
Stein Bridal**

A full-page photograph of a woman with blonde hair in a high bun, sitting on the edge of a swimming pool. She is wearing a black high-necked top with ruffles and a long, flowing olive green skirt with black wavy patterns. The pool has green and white tiled edges. The background shows a poolside area with some furniture.

THIS PAGE:

Location: **Belmond Cap Juluca,**
Anguilla; Dress: **Tony Ward**

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Location: **Belmond Cap Juluca,**
Anguilla; Dress: **Zuhair Murad**;
Shoes: **Elie Saab**







Location: **Four Seasons Resort
and Residences, Anguilla**; Bikini:
Lisca; Bracelets: **Elie Saab**;
Boat: **Van Dutch 55**, operated by
Seven Marine Charters



Dress: **Le Piacentini**; Trousers:
Yirko Svirich; Shirt: **Fendi**;
Boat: **Van Dutch 55**, operated
by Seven Marine Charters



Photography: Enrique Vega Photography

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