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NUBIAN PRINCESS

Photography by Sean Watters
Fashion by Sahar Azab
Makeup by Victor Amos
Hair by Chanelle Morris
Modelled by Suzan Idris

Cover Credits
Dress by Hisham Aboul Ela
Earrings by 'The Dressing Room'
Cuff by Mema El Shafey

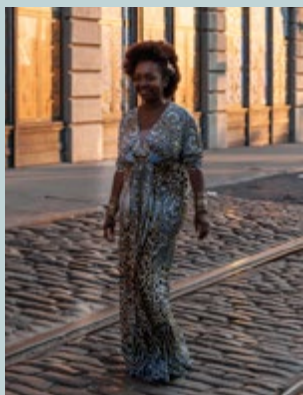
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Dress by Agnes B
Jewelry by Dhamani

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christinejbrandt.com/sterling



presenting a **NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER**

As a self proclaimed complicated Black woman from Haiti, I have come to realize that as a Black woman I live in a world where our Black beauty, while privately celebrated, is publicly denied in advertisements and many fashion spreads in high fashion magazines. I also know firsthand what that rejection feels like – how our own beauty, value and self-worth is viewed and ultimately displayed in a society that wants us to think otherwise, but their actions speak a totally different story.

Now, I could take a different approach and become the Angry Black Woman and rant or I could figure out how to create a paradigm shift in the luxury bridal industry; which is what I decided to do! And so, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present to you with pride and joy our first international cover, photographed in Cairo, Egypt with the incredible Nubian model Suzan Idris.

From a historical standpoint we have never photographed off the shores of America, so this is a monumental moment for me personally, and everyone at World Bride Magazine. Not only were we able to show our love for Africa and her people in this issue we were able to personally experience their history through their museums, historical landmarks and storytellers.

All my life I dreamed of this exotic place and now as an adult, to be able to explore Egypt for myself... beyond the pages of a book or beyond the screen of a television set or movie screen it is my distinct honor. When I first had the pleasure of visiting Egypt, it was during the recent revolution and as we drove through an important march enroute to Alexandria, the faces, filled with beauty, passion, pain and determination could be heard and echoed across the land.

My second visit was merely several months ago reflecting another side of Egypt, with luxurious experiences between Cairo, Luxor, and Sharm El Sheikh and all their glory. We slept underneath the very stars that the kings and pharaohs gazed upon and sailed along the Nile River where our beloved Moses was rescued and so vividly shared.

Upon my return, I began to realize the importance of these historical trips to Egypt. That one day these experiences would be the foundation and catalyst to open many significant doors into the Middle East. We are grateful to have the trust of our newly developed friends in the Dubai, Qatar, Ras Al Khaimah and Morocco. Everything works together to present an authentic and honest view of a variety of these countries, their people and experiences.

We are respectfully pleased to provide extraordinary content that can only be found in the pages of World Bride Magazine especially for you, our valued reader. We appreciate every one of our expert writers who give you firsthand information and experiences from their respected fields and regions, remain devoted to sharing each and every region, city and country's jewels – especially for you.

So, as you turn every single page, please take time to also visit each businesses' website or contact them to develop your own memorable experiences. We encourage you to seek out the variety of cultures that are right in your backyard, share a meal, ask questions, and enjoy the beauty of this land that is rich with talented people from the arts, food, culture, music and fashion sense. Remember, it is the diversity that makes us so different and it also the very thing that makes us so beautiful.

When we all begin to take pleasure in our diversity, embrace the beauty and pride of other races and cultures, we can then be inspired not only by their talent and extraordinary contributions on this planet but by them personally and collectively! And maybe even fall in love with **Love!**

Enjoy! Amour!

M. Idris

Inside this Issue





NEW YORK BRIDAL WEEK



Photography by **Paula Morandarte**



Our beautiful WORLD BRIDE MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Photographers



Sean
Watters

New York based photographer, Sean was born in Louisville, Kentucky. In his early twenties, Sean moved to NYC on a dance scholarship to The Mary Anthony Modern Dance School in the East Village. After dancing from show to show for several years, on the road is where Sean picked up his first camera to document his travels as a gypsy. From there his interest went from shooting food relief programs for Wyclef Jean's Yele Haiti program to his now signature fashion portraits. Known for his work shooting men's fashion, Sean Watters' photographs combine movement with a provocative edge, a look that has led to his success. Sean has contributed to many print and online magazines such as L'Officiel, Elle UK, Fucking Young, Collezione Uomo, Jon Magazine, and SID Magazine to name a few. For his personal work, Sean has exhibited for the Praz-Delavallade gallery in Paris which Artnet News has heralded as one of the top galleries in Europe. His personal work has appeared at the Salon at the Louvre, Palais de Tokyo, and the Piasa Auction House. Currently, Sean has his first solo exhibition at the Atelier of Marc-Antoine Barrois in Paris of his nudes called "That Window in Harlem".



Tony
Fadel

It's been 20 years since Tony has taken his first steps into the world of media and films. Since then, the Cannes film festival awarded director has counted breakthrough moments, incredible projects, rare honors and unforgettable collaborations. Above all the achievements, what he considers the most enriching one, it's the feeling of constantly being a student, of learning and discovering something new every day. The year 2010 has been a landmark for his career, and includes many firsts that will pave the way to bigger achievements. "Marie", a short film co-directed and co-written, was selected for the Cannes Film Festival 2010 in the short movie category.



Isabelle
Roseznbaum

ISABELLE ROZENBAUM is a French photographer and videographer. She has executed many photographic works and videos for institutional communication, publishing companies, photo libraries, and the media. She has also authored works dedicated to gastronomy (Guy Martin, Michel Guerard, Arnaud Daguin, etc.) and to ethno-culinary transmission, which received several awards (World Cookbooks Awards, Laduree, Antonin Careme, Guerlain, etc.). Her artistic work revolves around the universes of sleep, consumption, and psycho-geography, and appears as an attempt of pictorial renewal both in form (of the photograph viewed as a new "Painting") and in substance (of the nocturnal world considered as new "territory" of the image).



Peter D
Brown

Peter D. Brown is a New York based men's & women's fashion and beauty photographer. He has a fine art and photography background with a BFA from Syracuse University and Central Saint Martins (CSM) UK. Peter has been both a freelance and agency art director, creative director and editorial fashion director, (BLACKBOOK Magazine). His love of beauty has encompassed the roles of beauty/image consultant and illustrator for such clients as CHANEL, COVERGIRL, LANCOME, L'OREAL, MAYBELLINE, OSCAR DE LA RENTA, to name a few. He shoots both advertising and editorial assignments for clients worldwide.



Christopher
Kolk

Christopher comes from the age of the flamboyant 80s, drawn to fashion and music through which he developed an awareness of style and image and its effects on perception. Christopher is based in NYC and has contributed to American Vogue, People Magazine, Entertainment Weekly, Details, GQ, Esquire, Essence, Rolling Stone, Latina and other notable publications.



Peter
Rear

Falling in love with photography at a young age and cementing his passion whilst travelling the world at nineteen years old, it wasn't long before in-roads were set in a creative future for Peter. Graduating from one of the world's leading universities, University College London, in 2003, majoring in Digital Business, Business Psychology, and Computer Science, Peter launched his business enterprise at the early age of 21. Within just a year he was travelling to far flung locations around the world, including Hong Kong, New York, and the Caribbean, covering international events for VIP clients recognising his early talent. In early 2015 Esquire Magazine Middle East chose to feature Peter Rear amongst 8 other "inspirational men taking off in the region". Clients include some of the world's most exclusive luxury brands including Davidoff, Aston Martin, Boucheron, Gucci and Bvlgari to name just a few, in addition to being the preferred choice of many Royal families.

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a *destination*,
it's
a *feeling*.



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Our beautiful WORLD BRIDE MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

*Annalisa
Arcoleo*



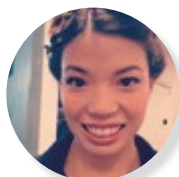
Annalisa Arcoleo is a filmmaker and journalist at heart. She started her journalism career working for Utility Magazine, writing about movies and some of the most important Italian events taking place in Italy. After graduating at ACT Cinecittà Studios in Rome, she started to work on movie sets and Italian television companies. She was able to take part in two TV series at "5 Stelle TV" as an Assistant Producer. In 2012, Annalisa joined one of the most famous Italian television networks, La Rai. In 2013, after winning a scholarship in journalism and movie reviews at Sentieri Selvaggi, her writings have gone on to appear in "La Voce" Magazine.

*Michelle
Lowe*



Michelle Lowe is an Event Planner, author and a woman of the world. Michelle is the owner of an event consultancy, Yolo Bespoke in London. She has been an Event Planner in Investment Banking for almost 20 years. She was recently published in the Anthology, Chocolates & Diamonds for the Woman's Soul. Michelle has also launched a relationship blog The Joy Spot. As an avid traveller, some of her favourite places have been Iceland, Ghana, Colombia and Bali. She is passionate about salsa dancing and sculpture. She loves make-up along with hair and fashion. Her first love is the theatre, Broadway or the West End in London.

*Megan
Jander*



Megan is a journalist who graduated from Penn State University in 2015 with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and an English minor. She has contributed works to WBM and is in the midst of co-producing and hosting a New Jersey travel web series. She is also using her artistic abilities to illustrate a children's book in the hopes of publication. With strong interests and previous experiences in meteorology and renewable energy, she dreams of being a Science Journalist someday.

*Caroline
Hoctan*



Caroline Hoctan a cofondé la plateforme éditoriale en ligne D-FICTION. Actuellement, elle travaille à son troisième roman ainsi qu'à Copyright Dante, une réactualisation de la Divine Comédie au monde et aux personnages d'aujourd'hui. Elle a publié plusieurs essais dont Mai 68 en revues (IMEC, 2008) ainsi que deux romans : Le Dernier Degré de l'attachement (Denoël, 2004) et Dans l'existence de cette vie-là (à paraître en 2016).

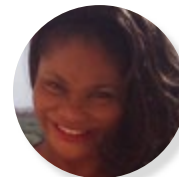
Writers

*Debra
Hare-Bey*



Debra Hare-Bey is a Celebrity Stylist with over a decade of hair care experience and product knowledge. She is the CEO of OH MY HEAVENLY Hair Inc. A Glamorously Natural Lifestyle Brand and former proprietor of the historic Red Creative Art Concept Studio. Celebrity Stylist Debra Hare-Bey is a respected authority and innovator in the hair care industry. She brings a different aesthetic to traditional hair styling; specializing in unique fabrications as hair additions. Debra is committed to consistently raising the bar of professional natural hair care as she bridges the gap between beautiful, healthy and natural. Always the dedicated professional, Debra was one of four women instrumental in changing the Cosmetology law in NY.

*Remi
James*



Remi has many years experience working for an Award Winning Creative, Digital and marketing agency, which has gained her a vast amount of knowledge and expertise within the Digital and Marketing world. From her first trip to Los Angeles as a teenager, began her love for travelling and she has since travelled to countless countries around the world. Due to Remi's passion for travel she has become the first point of call from her friends and some of her clients when they need advice on where they should go on holiday.

*Cedric
DeCarlo*



Cedric Gray is a New York based style correspondent and consultant. Since obtaining a dual degree in Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing at American International University in Atlanta, Georgia, Cedric honed his craft in the smaller venues of Atlanta's vast couture boutique district, designing visual displays that created a sensational buzz throughout the cities underground fashion matrices.

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PLAN PLANNING YOUR PLANNER

Cloud Nine Wedding and Event Organizing was created in June 2011 by Mennat Al Hammami, who began her career by redecorating homes for friends and family. Mennat eagerly explains her love for being creative and working with different UAE clients and observing their reactions at the events. Mennat enjoys the challenges of each new event, no matter the scope or size. Her forte is blending Arab customs. "My goal is never to win the pitch for a million dollar wedding, but winning the trust of the couple."

We asked Mennat a few questions to give us a special inside view of her world.

How many weddings a year do you do?

“It is a rare and beautiful thing to turn a passion into a career, to work hard to build something and slowly watch it bloom, says Mennat Al Hammami.

We manage between six to ten, ranging from 80 to 400.

How does a bride go about finding your company?

The Middle East has a variety of wedding online portals, directories, blogs, Instagram especially in the UAE.

What are the qualities of the wedding planner that they should seek?

An excellent communicator. Must have experience with their traditions, process and pricing, number of weddings and their portfolio and the venue, dress, location to the design of invitations, decor, to the entertainment.

How does the pricing work?

We have a fixed management fee for all services. Products and equipment are purchased or rented at market price.

How do you identify vendors in other locations?

The UAE wedding industry is tightly knit, we use bloggers, directories and referrals who are up to standard.

What would be the most important Dos and Don'ts to consider?

The Five Dos.

1. Plan as early as eight months for date and venue.
2. For good prices and services, do not buy your dress during peak season.
3. Start exercising early to relax your mind and body and spirit.
4. Eat as healthy and as clean as possible.
5. Find a planner that makes you comfortable or an on-the-day-coordinator.

The Five Don'ts.

1. Do not try to plan the entire wedding yourself!
2. Do not leave your dress to the last minute.
3. Do not forget about your fiancé in the process.
4. Negotiate! with everyone on everything.
5. Do not be a tense bride, find a regimen that helps you to relax and be calm.

Are there any special nuances to traditional Middle Eastern weddings?

The Middle East is a varied landscape with different countries, economic and cultural distinctions. Food is the basis of the wedding celebration, the bride and groom are treated like royalty, and the family rituals and traditions are woven throughout the celebration.

Believe me this wedding business is not for the faint of heart, but you can hire people who have an eye for flair, beauty and design; be mindful of those who are well organized, pay attention to detail and are sensitive to the occasion. Your wedding is a once in a lifetime experience.

WORLD BRIDE MAGAZINE

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*As you look in each other's eyes,
you see your destiny
and your destination*



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presenting a
**LETTER FROM THE
EDITOR**



Egypt was everything I thought it might be and more. Years ago, when I thought of Egypt and her immense history, I never considered that this country would be ideal for a destination wedding! After spending a week in this wonderful country I can now say there are amazing places for the most exotic destination weddings with the most luxurious hotels and event spaces.

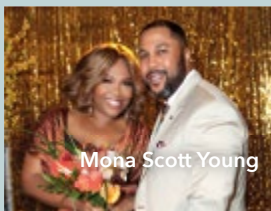
Planning a wedding in the most remote areas of the hills of Egypt takes you back to a time that did not stand still - the part of history that dwells in the beautiful valley is surrounded by incredible dunes that those wonderful desert movies starring the late Omar Sharif, now comes alive...from Pyramids to camels - now brings you to venues that include the world's finest golf courses and spas - it is indeed a dream come true setting. There's also the city wedding full of energy and excitement, beautiful museums, parks and gardens and five star hotels all creating interesting textured backdrops for those that love Mother Nature's green thumb. Of course, you can't go to Egypt without spending a luxurious afternoon or evening on The Nile with a variety of beautiful boats to create a romantic respite for your wedding party with the most succulent menus that represent all that is four to five stars.

The Red Sea is now lined with the most impressive developments of condominiums and individual homes in planned communities with every possible amenity. Imagine the Red Sea as the setting for a wedding on its beaches or ballrooms of the world's most elegant properties, with cocktails on the locals extreme yachts. Priceless!

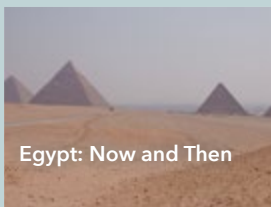
Egypt's people are highly intelligent, kind, warm and generous. They are proud of their heritage and culture, working hard to preserve the history of mankind. Their hard work is evident as you visit the museums and all the wonders of the world that reside on these hallowed grounds.

A destination wedding in Egypt will create the fondest memories for you and your guests!

Moments



Mohna Scott Young



Egypt: Now and Then

Much Peace, Infinite Love & Immeasurable Blessings,

Marsha

Marsha Reeves Jews
Editor-At-Large

Marsha Reeves Jews

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“Real” WORLD BRIDES

LAMA & Hazem

The most important thing to us for our wedding was the **Vibe and Energy**, set by the music and the decorations.

Closely followed by the **First Dance** and **Father/Daughter Dance**.



WHERE DID YOU GET MARRIED?

We got married at the **JW Marriott**, thankfully we were helped by our wedding planner sorting out all of the arrangements. **White Bliss** took a lot of the stress away from us.



WHERE DID YOU GO ON YOUR HONEYMOON?

We decided that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity so we took advantage of the time we had. We decided to travel to **Indonesia** and **Thailand**, staying in **Bali** and **Phuket**.



& OMAR Suzy

We were both extremely excited about getting married and our **First Dance** and of course the **Father and Daughter** dance were of the utmost importance to us.

We were very lucky to have my



The Bride wore Allure
The Groom wore Zara



(Suzy) best friend, Heba Rashed as our wedding planner. Heba was extremely supportive throughout the entire process.

WHERE DID YOU GET MARRIED?

We got married at the JW Marriott hotel and held our celebrations there, we loved it and they helped make our entire journey into married life both beautiful and unique for us.



Photography by Sheko Photography www.instagram.com/shekophotography

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“Real” WORLD BRIDES

CHINYERE & Benoit

Chinyere and Benoit got married at The One and Only, **THE PALM**, in Dubai.



The Bride wore **Benj Uy**
The Groom wore **Hugo Boss**



Photography by Faadhila Sharief @Light House Studio (www.lighthousestudio.com)



“The most important thing for us on our wedding day was being able to celebrate with our families and friends who came in from all over the world just for the wedding”





Words by **Marsha Reeves Jews**
Photography by **Michael Selby**

MONA SCOTT YOUNG

WBM *Celebrity Wedding*

More than ten years ago, Mona Scott Young, an amazingly gifted woman, was working very hard to create a business empire, bar none, and doing so without a special man in her life. Quite frankly, her work had her so involved it would have been almost impossible to find the time to even develop a short term, let alone long term relationship... or, so she thought.

On an extremely busy day, Mona jumped into a limo and unbeknownst to her that this electric moment might take her down a very different path. Here sat new executive protection, a man who had an incredible personality and spirit and demonstrated that he was indeed a gentleman by offering his jacket on what turned out to be a chilly evening.

I was delighted to hear the sheer joy in Mona's voice as she spoke of their first meeting. From the moment she saw Shawn Young, there was an extraordinary energy between them that had ignited something deeply within her that dared to make her question why she was alone, and whether this delightful opportunity would ever come again. The man in this automobile had an energy that seemed to overtake the space, his voice and mannerisms seemed to melt the veil that covered her heart and his looks - well, to die for!

I couldn't help but smile as I learned of all the nuances of that evening and how after a brief hiatus rekindled their "dance" on a plane to Europe, when he paid to move up to first class... That moment led to a swift and whirlwind romance and to a much longer ride culminating with a round trip ticket to New Orleans with family and friends to get married. As we continued to chat, I was fascinated by how she reminisced, she naturally giggled. Mona Scott Young loves this man and renewing her vows was as natural as opening her eyes. And, she truly believes it feels like yesterday. I wondered how they keep this wonderful feeling and her answer, "Always communicate" and they choose to be together, and she takes her time. This loving couple still cuddles on the couch, take time together, keeping it new is a priority. I did laugh out loud when this globe-trotter talked about not having her hubby with her and was very clear that they do have their late night chats to catch up on what is going on - he is her best friend and they are not taking one another for granted - their long distance can be bridged with an intimate conversation.

After more than ten plus years I wondered how they decided to renew their vows and she was quite direct, "I literally said, do you want to marry me again?" And, Shawn agreed. They returned to New Orleans and replicated quite a bit except for the 200 people; this time bringing renown Hiram Smith of Hiram Style Wedding and Events including her two sisters

and best friends to support her. She wore the same beautiful copper wedding gown with a remix. They enjoyed steam boat rides, karaoke and the typical New Orleans attractions. She was experiencing the entire process over again in her mind and clearly in her heart.

It was fun listening to her discuss their wedding in New



Orleans and returning to this magical place with their family and dearest friends to renew those precious vows with the man that literally swept her off her feet almost fifteen years ago. This from a media mogul producing several hit reality shows and a myriad of multimillion dollar businesses! Mona's raw honesty was refreshing and is a testament to when you let love, honesty, respect, friendship and communication be the guiding force to building a solid marriage. This beautiful relationship sounds like the beginning of a new kind of reality show or big screen love story named after the theme for their vow renewal..."forever young!"



Noor Rashid Al Khalifa

Founder, CEO and Designer, Noon By Noor

Date of Birth: August 17, 1985

Place of Birth: Riffa, Kingdom of Bahrain

As a graduate of Arts and Science (Fashion Design) from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia (USA), Noor has returned to her homeland of Bahrain to develop a line that captures her intrinsic vision of fashion. Her unconventional career choice was driven by a life-long passion to translate her vision to paper and transform her artwork to life.

Her hobbies include Photography, Painting, Designing and Traveling.

Haya Mohammed Al Khalifa

Co-Founder, COO and Designer, Noon By Noor

Date of Birth: September 11, 1984

Place of Birth: London, England

Also a graduate from Marymount University's Arts and Science (Fashion Design) degree program, Haya has joined forces with her cousin Noor to add her own creative influence into the Noon By Noor line. Though her decision to take on fashion design came about at a later stage, her extensive travels throughout the world have led her to the footsteps of this innovative industry.

Her hobbies: Traveling, Photography, and Reading.

Noor and Haya combine influences from their homeland along with international styles, to create a captivating balance between the traditional and modern, while capturing the essence of timeless femininity.

BAHRAIN



JULIANE KNIPS

Words by **Charlie Reiss**

Juliane Knips was born in Germany but has lived all over the world as her father was an international journalist. Juliane finally moved to the UAE in 2007.

Despite receiving a scholarship for Art and Fashion, Juliane's family insisted on a formal education to back up her dreams and went on to study Hotel Management in Munich, but this did nothing to extinguish her passion for fashion; deciding to major within housekeeping and continuing to work with fabrics and uniforms and later moving into sales and marketing for high-end brands.

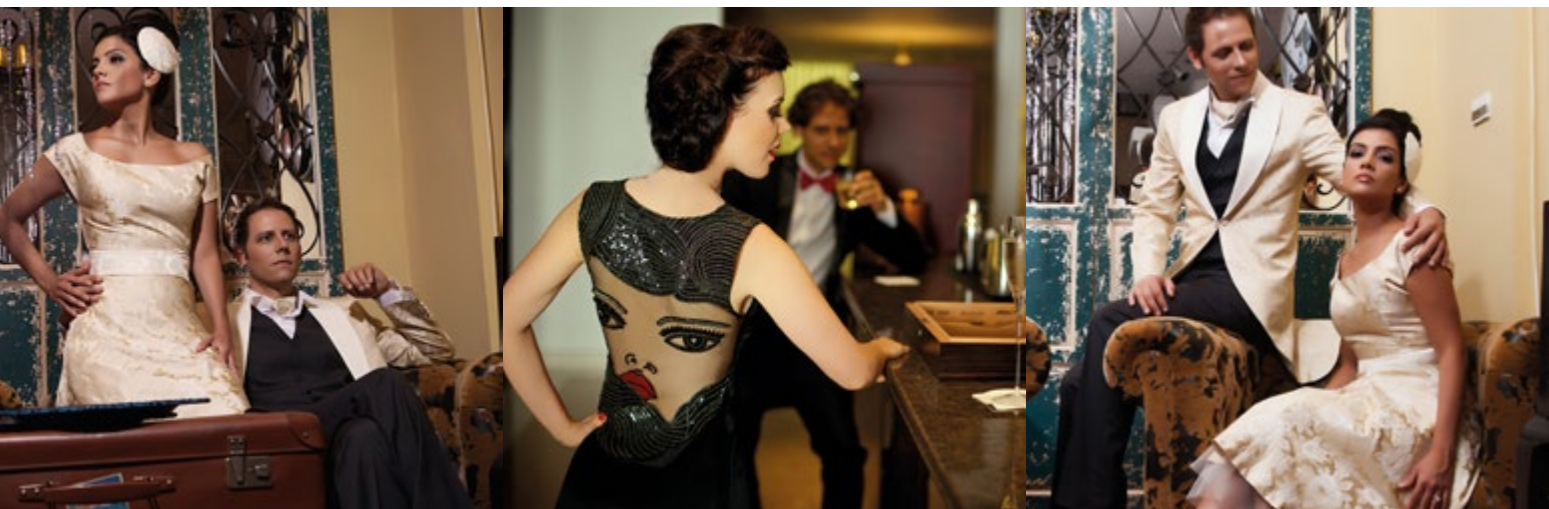
It wasn't until much later that Juliane decided to take the plunge into the world of fashion. In 2012 Juliane launched her very first ready-to-wear collection of designer, his and her Tee's. These were so successful that this launch was

shortly followed by an influx of orders from ready-to-wear dresses to couture gowns, including wedding gowns and some small uniform projects.

In 2013 Juliane moved to Ras Al Khaimah and opened the Juliane Knips Fashion House Atelier in the exclusive Al Hamra Mall.

Since then, the fashion house has grown from strength to strength now employing a full staff from master tailors to fashion designers and setting up a new Uniform division in Dubai.

Juliane has three distinct areas of focus and each area has its own brand, SpinK focuses on casual wear with Knipsy taking care of the little people providing 100% organic baby rompers made from the softest Peruvian Cotton.



JK Uniforms is responsible for creative and quality uniforms, with clients ranging from the Sheraton to Sofitel.

JK Exclusive is the face of the couture, with bespoke wedding dresses and formal evening wear for him and her. Many of the designs feature French laces and raw silk jacquards, all carefully selected to the individual bride to emphasize their beauty and elegance.

www.julianeknips.com



A photograph of Silvia Tcherassi, a woman with blonde hair, sitting on a dark wooden chair with a light-colored cushion. She is wearing a white long-sleeved blouse and a colorful, tropical-patterned skirt. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a large abstract painting with various colors and lines, and a white sofa. The overall setting is a modern, artistic interior.

Silvia Tcherassi

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

FASHION

Silvia Tcherassi is considered one of the most creative, innovative and versatile personalities in the world of fashion. With more than 25 years in the industry, Tcherassi has shown her prêt-à-porter collections at the fashion weeks in Milan and Paris as a special guest of the organizers. She received the insignia of "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Government, an honor bestowed on leaders of the international arts community for their "contribution and commitment to cultural service."

Searching to expand her vision beyond fashion, in October of 2009 Tcherassi opened her first namesake luxury hotel in Cartagena, Colombia to much critical acclaim as part of the new Tcherassi Hotel Collection. The property was named one of the "Best New Hotels" by Travel + Leisure and Condé Nast Traveler, as well as one of the top "Designer Hotels" by Town & Country and Fodor's. With the hotel design, Tcherassi successfully translated her fashion concepts into the design of spaces and the creation of experiences. In March of 2009, Random House published her first book "Elegancia sin esfuerzo" (Effortless Elegance) about her approach to fashion and style. She has developed collaboration projects with Swarovski and Castañer. She launched the Tcherassi Home Collection in March of 2011.

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, on the shores of the Caribbean, Tcherassi began her career as an interior designer, but the search for new artistic expressions led her to the world of fashion. Her collections include prêt à porter, bridal, home and accessories, which can all be found at her namesake boutiques around the world.

www.silviatcherassi.com



The Grand & Fashionable Wedding

Words by **Paulette Cleghorn**

Lina & Mohamad Wedding at The Al Badia Golf Club in Dubai
Photographer: Lenny Muthiah & Nicky Lejeune

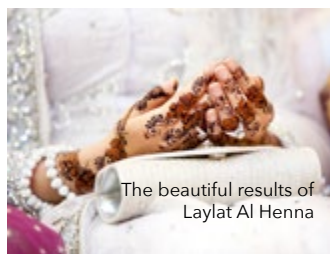
Weddings in the Middle East vary from state to state and from one religion to another; although predominantly Muslim, Orthodox or Coptic Christianity and Judaism are also practiced. The tradition of wearing wedding rings also originated in this region and at the wedding each guest is given five almonds that symbolize the five sacred wedding wishes of health, happiness, wealth, fertility and longevity. It is common for a Middle Eastern wedding to feature five different parties including the engagement party, the party to celebrate the signing of the wedding contract, the Henna Party, Reception and Bridal Shower. Some will celebrate a full week of dinners and entertainment



Wedding of Sheikh Isa bin Salman & Sheikh Jawaher (son of Bahrain Crown Prince)

bound were those in ancient Egyptian society. Not many couples realize that by taking the vow of marriage, they are actually following an age old Egyptian tradition. Additionally, the symbolism of the perfect circle of a wedding ring is also said to date back to ancient Egyptian origins of 3,000 BC, where the rings represented a union described by the Egyptians as being "without beginning, without end."

As a country with a diverse mix of religious beliefs, the various customs and ceremonies for marriage are dictated by the couple's shared religion, which may be Islamic, Muslim, Christian or Coptic Christian, so if you're getting married in Egypt, or marrying an Egyptian citizen, be aware that the ceremonial events, costumes and traditions will



The beautiful results of Laylat Al Henna

prior to the actual nuptials and some will celebrate after the nuptials for "seven" days.

With all of this

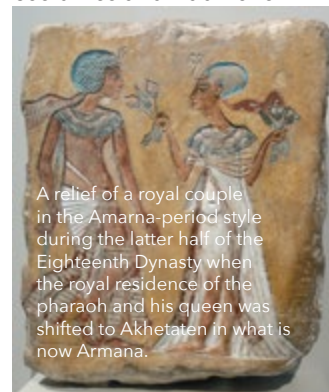
celebration the bride-to-be and her guests will have several fashion decisions to make which can be exciting and daunting at the same time!

Middle Eastern women have become the world's biggest buyers of high fashion and bridal haute couture. This might be surprising to some considering the notion that many Arab women are kept under wraps. Most women

from prominent families have a very active social calendar with approximately 15-20 weddings a year as well as numerous private parties every month which excludes the presence of men; therefore they are free to dress as they please. Every country has their own unique traditions.

EGYPT

The very first relationships to be legally and religiously



A relief of a royal couple in the Amarna-period style during the latter half of the Eighteenth Dynasty when the royal residence of the pharaoh and his queen was shifted to Akhetaten in what is now Armana.



be greatly influenced by the relevant religious faith. The marriage contract is signed and registered by "maazon", a man who has an official license to sign and register the marriage contract, in attendance of the couple and their families and friends, and this procedure happens in the bride's house, church or at a mosque.

JORDAN

For Bedouin weddings, the bride is dressed in an embroidered wedding dress and gold or silver jewelry often with a green silk cloth covering her head. The female relatives process her to the groom's tent where the wedding takes place. After seven days of marriage, the female relatives of the groom wash and dress the new bride, who is now officially a married woman

of the groom's household. For non-Bedouins, many brides opt for Western-style white dresses; grooms, a formal black suit. Traditional wedding celebrations last a week that begins with small gatherings of family and close friends. As the days pass and the wedding grows closer, the parties increase in size. The night before the wedding, the bride's hands and feet are painted with henna by the women in her family as they sing and dance and tell stories.

LEBANON

A Lebanese wedding tradition called "zaffe" starts with friends, family, and in some cases with performers and dancers as they escort the groom to his bride in a shower of shouted blessings and flower petals. The Lebanese wedding is

all about the celebrating, dancing and joyous clapping. Wedding engagements in Lebanon are usually organized in the bride's home. The groom brings lots of presents. Lebanese weddings can last for up to three consecutive days. The most impressive is the day of Zaffeh. Nowadays this term means wedding celebration in general. The wedding starts with two parties - one in groom's home and one in bride's home. With the arrival of groom to bride's home the third party starts.

There is a lot of food. Everybody's dancing. Classical Lebanese belly dancing is often performed at the wedding reception. It symbolizes transformation of the bride into a sensual woman. The couple serves ghoraibi cookies to the guests. These white butter cookies symbolize bride's purity. The party lasts till dawn.

When the bride and groom are leaving the bride's home, women gathered there to give them blessings. The "Ah Weeeee-ha" and the "zalghouta" are the joyous sounds that can be heard at every wedding. As sign of joy people throw petals and rice on the bride and groom.

If the bride steps on single girl's foot it is believed that it will bring her luck and that she is going to marry soon.

DUBAI

Wedding attire for the men of Dubai include a white full-length shirt-dress, called khandura or dishdasha. This goes with gutra, a white or red-checked headress. Women, on the other hand, wear a long black robe to cover their normal clothing. This robe is called abaya. They likewise wear a headscarf while in public. Wedding traditions in Dubai involve a great deal of preparations on the part of the bride. It typically goes this way:

- Only the members of the bride's family and her other relatives are allowed to see her for 40 days, beginning on the fixing of the wedding date until the day of the wedding
- As the wedding day nears, extracts of jasmine and amber are used to wash her hair; her whole body is lavished with fragrant perfumes and traditional oils
- On Laylat Al Henna (literally, night of the henna), her hands and feet are decorated with henna. This night is very special for her because it's a "ladies' night only."





IRAQ

The "nishan" is the wedding celebration for Iraqi couples. During the nishan, the groom and the groom's family traditionally shower the bride with gifts of jewelry, diamonds and specifically gold. At one time brides used to wear up to seven dresses for this celebration but today it is more common for 3- 5 gowns depending on the couple's financial status.

In the past, arranged marriages were common. However, this practice is

becoming more rare, and a law was passed that gave authority to a state-appointed judge to overrule the wishes of the father in the event of an early marriage. The Muslim majority traditionally views marriage as a contract between two families, as the family's needs are considered most important. In urban settings, women and men have more options in choosing their spouses, though the proposed spouse still must have parental approval. Partners often come from the same ethnic

group, and though marriage between different ethnic groups is accepted, it is not too common. The ruling Baath regime considers marriage to be a national duty that should be guided and encouraged. Starting in 1982, women were forbidden to marry non-Iraqi men. If they were already married, they were prohibited from transferring money or property to their spouses.

ISRAEL

Our first thought of an Orthodox Jewish wedding is one of modesty and classic elegance where the bride wears a gown that covers from her collarbone and shoulders, but while this notion is still true for many conservative families, the concept of a wedding gown has made a dramatic shift for Israeli brides. Wedding dresses out of Israel have becoming increasingly sexier and it seems Israel's wedding dress designers are leading the way even in the Western world with daring bridal collections that takes sexy to a whole new level.

Marriage is a holy institution in Judaism. Its very name in Hebrew, "kiddushin," means "sanctification." Most of the laws and customs relating to the wedding ceremony (Chatunah), its preparations and Seudat Mitzvah (festive reception meal) date back

thousands of years.

Jewish law enjoins the entire community to bring joy and happiness to both the Kallah (bride) and Chatan (groom).

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Rabbi will ask the best man to place a wine glass, wrapped in a white cloth or in a special bag the couple provides, under the bridegroom's right foot. The bridegroom will break it, symbolizing: the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, man's short life on earth; that even in the midst of the happy occasion we should not forget how fragile life truly is. After the glass is broken, the guests shout "Mazel Tov," clap their hands, embrace and sing as the couple departs. The bride and bridegroom will kiss immediately after being declared "man and wife" and then run up the aisle into a Yichud which is a brief seclusion where the couple can spend a few moments together before joining their guests. When the couple has fasted until the ceremony, this is their opportunity to break the fast with either a chicken soup or their favorite food. Even couples who have not fasted appreciate the few moments alone in what is usually a hectic and emotionally packed day.



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HOW TO CONVERT A SPACE

Words by **Marsha Reeves Jews**

One of the most important aspects of your wedding day is having your wedding ceremony and reception reflect the dreams you have had for years. Many brides have thought about the color of their flowers, table linens and an assortment of beautiful appointments.

As your dreams are being developed, it is imperative that you keep in mind that the venue and their policies are an important detail that will have a major impact on making your dreams come true.

You don't have to design or physically decorate the venue yourself. Gone are the days where you had to schlep your ladder to the local hall with boxes of Christmas lights to do it yourself. In today's market, most venues have either exclusive or preferred vendors with warehouses filled with the most unusual and sublime props that can transform any venue into the perfect wedding of your dreams. That is if your venue allows transformative events. Every venue has rules and regulations that are part of your contract and you must adhere to every single line item to the letter of the law.

However, sometimes there are exceptions to the rule - provided your dream will enhance the venue. Create a great visual on their website, or create a "I wish I had thought of that" appointment that can readily be done for someone else that the venue would find quite interesting.

Usually when you are stretching your ability to make your dreams come true, you should consider using a professional. There are event companies that have trained contractors who can create the most elaborate lighting packages, ceiling and wall treatments to florists who have designed table treatment fit for royalty, literally. These are people who are trained in set design, interior decorating, and so much more. I say plan your wedding with the most elaborate ideas, but spend time thinking and inspecting venues on the web and through magazines. Check with your large cultural arts organizations; most of your community's non-profit organizations host fundraisers and their events are all about the experience, especially your symphony or art museums. The development of fundraising departments of these institutions will surely know the best companies with unique abilities.

A note to remember: when you are planning this elaborate design, be mindful that there are a lot of logistics that are required and must be coordinated with your venue that may charge for the additional setup time. Keep in mind the line item for venue rental. Additional setup time can be expensive, but worth every dime.

EZ STUDIOS



Ez Studios is one of the premier photo and event rental spaces in New York City. The main studio is an ideal space for a wide variety of photo shoots, wedding receptions, bridal shows, fashion shows and presentations, as well as video, film and TV production projects. Ez Studios is located in the heart of the garment district.



Elena Kriegner

I love my job, every day I meet the most amazing people who teach me something; either through their work or life stories. One of these special people I cherish is Elena Kriegner, an Austrian jeweler who knew at 6 years old... "when I saw my first piece of jewelry, that jewelry making would be my life. Then at 12 years old I was creating jewelry for my schoolmates. I believe that a job can't just be a job, it must be a part of you, and that every person is built in a special way for a reason and what we create with our work can only be the result of who we are." Which is why Elena's creations are made with perfection.

Elena is a Master Jewelry Maker and Goldsmith, who studied at the European Jewelry Design School. This jewelry artisan is adventurous and has traveled

Words by **Annalisa Arcoleo**

around the world in a boat because she believes, if something seems crazy but you feel it is right, do it and that too many people think too much..."How can I do that? Where am I going? And if it doesn't work? Maybe it's better if I stay in my country..." While thinking is good, sometimes we need courage to do something that seems crazy, but brings you to your appointed destination. And, that's what Elena did, she spent more than one year on that boat, visiting and discovering many countries, places, cultures, and lifestyles.

After one year around the world, Elena's final destination was New York, where her sister Herta lived. They began working together to follow their passions. Herta is an internationally renowned graphic designer. And thanks to Herta,

Elena had the best idea ever about jewelry. Elena gleamed when she shared Herta's brilliance, "Herta came back from a holiday in Hawaii, where she found a place where you can select, purchase and open your own pearls for 10 dollars. She brought the pearl back to New York and asked me to create a special piece with the pearl without destroying it by making a necklace or ring - then I thought moving pieces!

Today, Elena creates the base of the ring, adds a removable part with the pearl in a case, and uses rock crystals, diamonds, topaz, amethyst and other moveable pieces. Each part can be used in different ways; from a removable part of a ring to being transformed in a necklace, or earrings. Every piece is a creation that reflects highest quality of design and craftsmanship and are perfect for every possible occasion.



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21ST CENTURY *ART of* TIPPING

FINANCE LIFESTYLE

Words by **Marsha Reeves Jews**

In today's luxury market, there is an incredible specialized group of employees. The concierge, butlers, chambermaids, and pool attendants are just a few. In most cases there isn't an additional charge for a lot of the services available in luxury spaces like hotels, restaurants, guides, or cabs. Since that is the case, tipping can be confusing and often difficult to master. The fact that these are service jobs is an indicator that these folks live for their tips and their hourly wage will not cover their overhead.

The question becomes who are you supposed to tip and how much? If you are using a service that is widely known to be a tipped service, such as restaurants, bars, hair salons, valet parking, etc., then I believe there is a moral obligation to tip for good service. No need to take out pen and pad or even the calculator on your smart phone, rather we have created a tipping guide for you. Please note that tips are calculated pre-tax, but you can take the total bill, which is easier. If you are in a situation where the tip is automatically added in, it should be pre-tax.

- There used to be an edict that said you should never tip the owner - today we say **tip the owner**.
- **Porter or skycap** - \$2 per bag, more if the bags are heavy. \$2 extra for curbside check-in is optional. If you arrive late and he helps you get to your flight on time, tip an extra \$5-\$20.
- **Hotels** - Delivery of special items - If you request extra pillows or an iron, tip \$1 per item received, minimum \$2.
- We think that the **housekeeper or chambermaid** should be tipped. Either tip them daily or wait until the end of your stay - it would be gracious if you are able to hand it to them personally. Between \$5 and \$10 - but leave it in an envelope; they may not know that it is for them.
- **The doorman** who flagged a cab or assisted with directions, \$2 to \$3.
- There is no one more important than your **concierge**. They are on top of everything that needs to be done and should be tipped between \$5 and \$10 for each service or at the end of your stay. Be careful, this can add up to \$200+ by the end of the week.
- Depending on your budget, there really isn't a ceiling on the amount you tip. It is more about your gratitude for the service.

- If you are on a budget, to avoid over tipping, be sure to see if there are resort fees which are added to your room rate and cover the gratuity for everyone you encounter on the property - on some properties the employees are discouraged from accepting tips.
- When an employee goes out of their way to assist or remember you wanted or needed something and brought it when you weren't expecting it - such initiative really deserves a tip.
- We are of the mind that tipping ensures great service, especially if you frequent an establishment.
- **Tour guide**. Tip between \$1 to \$5 per person in your group.
- **Personal Services** such as massage therapist. Give 10 to 20 percent of the total cost for service.
- **Valet parking** - Tip \$2-\$5 for the valet who parks your car, and \$2-\$5 for the valet who later retrieves it.
- **Hairstylist** - Tip 15% to 20% of the cost of the service.
- If you order **takeout** from a restaurant make sure to tip the cashier a bit.
- **Car washer** - Tip \$5 or 15% of your bill - especially if there is detailing involved.
- When you are in a **restaurant** - it is customary to leave your wait staff 18% to 20% unless it is added to your bill.
- **Bartenders** - Tip 18% to 20% or depending on how many free drinks - at least tip the price of the free drink.
- **Taxi, limo, shuttle or van driver** - Standard tip is 15% and as high as 20%. If they get you to your destination quickly, tip extra. Note, rates quoted for limos may include gratuity.
- **Boat trip** - over 3 hours, tip \$10-\$75 depending upon the cost of the excursion, quality of service, meals and amenities.
- **Outdoor guides** (fly fishing, horseback riding, river rafting, etc.) - 15% of the cost of the service. Some companies have a no-tipping policy. Check when you book the trip.
- **Private Yacht Charter** - Tip the crew 10-20% of the charter fee based upon the quality of service. Hand the gratuity to the Captain for distribution to the crew. Personally, I like little envelopes.

Now, you don't need to feel compelled to tip -

- Maintenance staff or technology engineer - Nothing to replace a light bulb, fix the air conditioning, internet access, etc.
- Auto rental shuttle driver

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SHOES
ACCESSORIES



Mature BRIDE

Words by **Debra Hare-Bey**

Life is good! You're well-traveled, have great friends, and very pleased with your career. You've tailored your life exactly the way you want it. You've dated and dated and dated. You've found the one that you want to spend the rest of your life with. Marriage has been on your mind off and on over the years, but just never felt like it was the right time. Now you are really ready to take the next step. YES.... Yes! Your answer is yes to the proposal.

Now comes time for the planning. Where to begin? What style do you want to go for that fits everything you love? You're not the kind of bride that wants a big puffy gown or a venue covered in nothing but glitter. You've worked too hard to have that type of wedding. You're all about class and grace, but how do you translate that into your wedding? Here we break down the different styles of sophistication to fit the needs of our "mature brides" and help with their vision for their special day.

Not the Frou-Frou Type

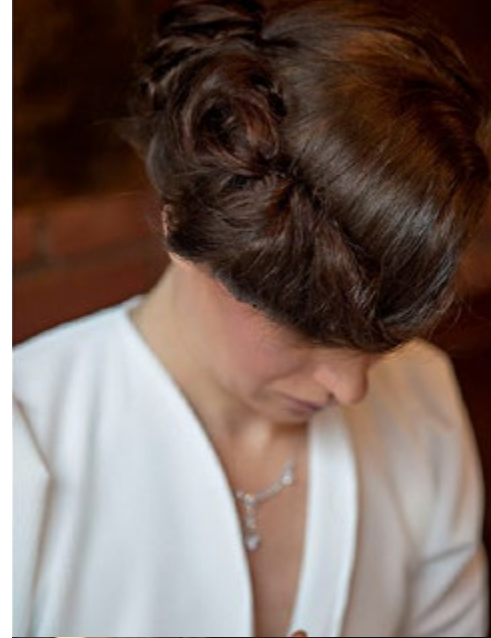
Simple yet sophisticated is your design foundation. Long gone are the days of the frou-frou gowns, super long trains, over the top veils and so on and so on. You want a dress that reflects your tailored lifestyle. You're looking at tailored suits, simple yet elegant dresses in hues of off-white. Not really the veil type but want your hairstyle to be dynamic.

Braids, Topknots, Chignons

Sophistication is your desire. A beautiful hairstyle that is regal, simple, yet elegant. You love braided do's slightly messy, intricate topknots and a huge fan of the chignons. Remember, you want to do a hairstyle rehearsal before your wedding. What you love and desire in a hairstyle may or may not look great on you. Additionally your stylist will have an opportunity to design a style with all the elements you want just perfect for your wedding day.

Non-Traditional Venue

Event halls, church basements and all-in-one wedding venues are not really your cup of tea. You desire beautiful, sophisticated and intimate venues. Yachts, restaurants, mansions are all venues that may suit your needs. A good wedding planner will be able to locate the perfect venue.





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Color Matte \$52
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MAC Pigment
in Tan \$22
maccosmetics.com

Beauty

ON-TREND

by Aziza Walker

Visionary BEAUTY

Photography by Peter Rear
Words by H.Tayem

A woman in a flowing red dress is standing in a vast desert landscape under a warm, golden sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting long, soft shadows across the sand dunes. The woman's hand is visible, reaching out slightly. The overall mood is romantic and cinematic.

Filmatography is a luxury film and photography company with a cutting edge studio post-production department, creating inspirational imagery for events and commercial commissions across Europe, the Middle East and the World. Filmatography's CEO and creator **Peter Rear**, has created a niche and well earned reputation amongst the elite and influential. What Filmatography provides is by no means usual images or video, this is what can only be described as a cinematic and narrative experience.

The newest addition to Filmatography's works of art is a premium service offering Luxury Destination Shoots. The concept of this service developed as a demand by the new generation of clientele that wanted to immortalize and provide visual content on their wedding day.

12 luxury destinations have been meticulously scouted and offered for a "pre photoshoot" of the Bride and Groom coupled with the production and luxury experience fit for a top model. On this particular luxury destination shoot, destination number 12 was finalized and added to the list so Filmatography set out to shoot a visually what one is to expect.



The destinations chosen represented different parts of the world with different climates and geography. From the Bayon Temples in Cambodia to the Lavender Fields in the south of France.

Liwa Desert in Abu Dhabi UAE was the destination. Qasr Al Sarab Hotel was booked to provide the ultimate 5 star treatment. What could only be described as a magical oasis, it instantly takes your breath away.

Upon arrival everyone involved is welcomed in true style and all details and times for the next day of shooting discussed. This shoot oozes Vogue fashion shoot meets National Geographic.

At 4:30am hair and make up began in the middle of the serene and enchanting desert. Clothing was arranged systematically and well ahead of time. Jess, the stylist from a company appropriately titled "Lace in the Desert" provided high-end designer pieces from the world sought after Oscar De La Renta. Hair and make up was done flawlessly by Lorna Butler. Her brief for "Arabian style" make up with a natural fresh dewy finish on the skin with a bride's dream application of "highlighting" & contouring". Hair extensions were added to create a "goddess" look.

The combination of all these elements with the model, Veronica, riding on a horse, kissed by the swirling winds of the desert, created the ultimate series of pictures and video captured effortlessly by Peter Rear and his team.

Creating the ultimate fairytale-like experience from start to finish. If this was the surpassed level of expectation that came with a desert, you can only imagine what one would feel in other luxury destinations listed on offer.

The crew involved are single handedly responsible for this unique out of this world experience. A wedding is no longer enough when you can extend what usually is one day into an international experience that will last time both physically and mentally. By creating a theme from the early stages of wedding preparations this has also aided and helped luxury wedding planners to continue a consistency which ties it all in on the magical wedding day itself.

An unforgettable luxury experience captured by Filmatography to cherish for a lifetime.







PEARL *of the* EMIRATES

Ras al-Khaimah

Words by Myrdith Leon-McCormack

As television enthusiast, it is often difficult to discern what the media chooses to cover and share and the rest of the story. In today's communication centers, it is apparent that there are many layers to the stories about the Middle East. This writer cannot speak to motivation or disrespect other viewpoints; however, I can share my experience.





The Middle East has some of the most magnificent countries, particularly in the United Arab Emirates, namely Ras Al Khaimah—the gateway to the Gulf. There are several countries that are international brands: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah. These are all wonderful regions, however, there is a very special place that is dear to my heart—Ras Al Khaimah. This region is one of the seven parts of the United Arab Emirates.

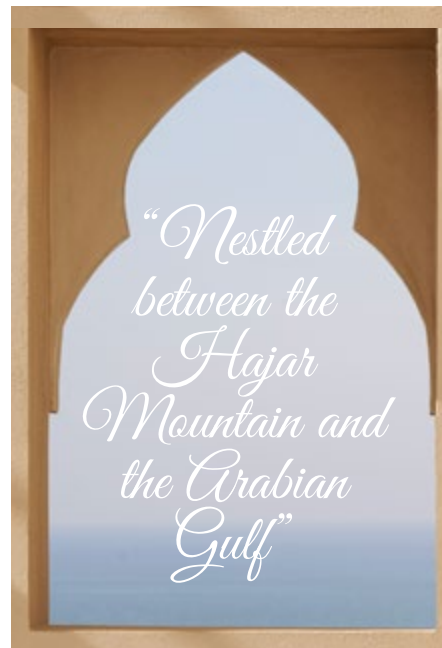
We were grateful to have the opportunity to work with a local photography on a fashion shoot in Ras Al Khaimah and stumbled upon a magnificent desert oasis—the legendary Waldorf Astoria. This iconic, global brand has been recognized for its luxury, state of the art amenities for eons.

This beautiful property is nestled in between the Hajar Mountain and the Arabian Gulf, providing the backdrop for the urban city pace, serene spa spaces, or mountain climbing or golf. There is a robust historical culture that will always be the underpinning of this beautiful country as they



embrace the advancement of its modern forward-thinking business climate. The leadership has evolved to comfortably finding comfort in diversity and living harmoniously with various cultures, ethnicities, and religions. These global movers and shakers hail from around the world, making Ras Al Khaimah one of the most attractive international hubs in the region.

The Waldorf Astoria RAK is a wonderful location for a destination wedding and can comfortably host 50-70 of your intimate family



members and friends. We fell in love with the staff at Waldorf Astoria RAK who were gracious, hospitable and eager to show us every aspect of their property and the country. The beauty of the property alone was enough to keep me on its grounds, and the world-class service providers were another special touch; from the fully equipped full service spa, variety of restaurant options, from steak to sushi, a host of shopping boutiques, from the finest jewelry



to fashion-forward designers. They were also very focused on providing complementing services for men. While your beloved enjoys her spa services or sunbathing at the pool water or pristine beaches, there are wonderful locations to enjoy a cigar and drink or enjoy a round of golf on magnificently manicured greens.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the absolute beauty of visiting the horse stables of the present ruler, HH, Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, with his award winning Arabian horses now retired and made available for guests to enjoy. HH, is an eloquently spoken gentleman, who honors the legacy of his father and his ancestors by building on their vision and prestigious legacy.

Ras Al Khaimah is 45 minutes away from Dubai by car, and its bright city lights, skyscrapers and fast-paced nightlife, or the one and half hour drive to Abu Dhabi and the beautiful Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Ras Al Khaimah has its own charm that will be sure to capture your heart and fill all your needs to tranquility, historical riches, and filled with culture and beauty that will make this a memorable visit for a lifetime.



A close-up, high-angle portrait of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes, nose, and lips. She has a soft, radiant complexion. Her eyes are accentuated with dark, shimmering eyeshadow and long, dark eyelashes. Her lips are painted with a vibrant, matte red lipstick. Her hand is visible in the lower left corner, with fingers slightly curled, showing a matching red manicure. The background is a solid, deep teal color.

Eyes

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Eyeshadow Duo Rust Brown
Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Precision Liquid Liner Black

Lashes

Eylure Texture no. 159

Cheeks

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Celestial
Bronzing Veil in Tropical Days

Lips

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Matte Lip
Color Eternal

Skin

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Sensual Skin
Fluid Foundation

Photography by **Marcus Ezell**

Hair and Makeup by **Saj Mack** using **Keyn Aucoin**

Modelled by **Stephanie Carino** @ **SALT Model & Talent**

ARABIAN

Secrets





Eyes

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty
The Essential Eyeshadow
Palette 4
Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Precision
Eye Definer in Vanta

Lashes

Eylure Texture no. 159

Cheeks

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Pure Powder Glow Natura

Lips

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Expert Lip Color in Marzie

Skin

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Sensual Skin Fluid Foundation



Eyes

Kevyn Aucoin
Beauty The Loose
Shimmer Shadow
in Rose Quartz and
Amethyst
Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Beauty
Precision Eye Definer in Vanta

Lashes

Eylure Texture no. 117

Cheeks

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Celestial Bronzing Veil in
Tropical Days

Lips

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Lip Gloss Dahlia

Skin

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Sensual Skin Fluid Foundation



Eyes

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Loose Shimmer Shadow
in Rose Quartz and Amethyst
Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Beauty Precision
Eye Definer in Vanta

Lashes

Eylure Texture no. 117

Cheeks

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Celestial Bronzing Veil in
Tropical Days

Lips

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Lip Gloss Dahliana

Skin

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Sensual
Skin Fluid Foundation

Eyes

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Eyeshadow Duo Cool Tan
Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Precision Liquid Liner Black

Lashes

Eylure Volume no. 70

Cheeks

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Pure Powder Glow Natura

Lips

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty The Expert Lip Color in
Faith

Skin

Kevyn Aucoin Beauty Sensual Skin Fluid
Foundation

Bridal Beauty TRENDS

Words by **Aziza Walker**

Ah! Bridal Fashion Week. It's that magical time of the year when New York City erupts into mountainous flurries of silk, lace, and organza. When one works in the bridal industry, it's impossible not to get swept up in all of the excitement. Starry eyed brides and buyers alike flock to the city for sneak peeks at the trends that will be dominating next spring's bridal scene.

While fashion editors crane their necks to catch glimpses of willowy limbed models strutting down runways, I wait with bated breath for what I consider the piece de résistance: the makeup! With the recent explosion of cosmetics on social media, the modern bride, now more than ever, realizes the importance of crafting a beautifully stunning look on her big day.

ETHEREAL SKIN

Feel free to toss your mattifying primers and powders into the bin because glowing skin is back in a big way! This was especially apparent at the Prina Tornai runway show where the theme was "Wind Upon Water." I slipped backstage afterward to chat with Keri Berman, the celebrity makeup artist responsible for creating the show's ethereal look. She describes the skin as being "Hydrated, dewy, and almost wet with shimmer in strategic places." Eager to try this look at home? Use a liquid highlighter like Becca's Shimmering Skin Perfector underneath your favorite foundation. For even more glow, add a refined shimmer powder just on the high points of the face.

CRIMSON LIPS

At Badgley Mischka, we saw a variety of richly ruby tones carefully selected to flatter the varying skin tones of the models. I know what you're thinking, red lips for a wedding? Yes! Depending on the shade and finish, a flash of red on the lips can be demure, classic, or edgy. A little nervous about wearing such a bold shade? Spring for a sheer lipstain from Yves Saint Laurent instead of an opaque lipstick. And for a pout that will stand up to endless kisses and one too many celebratory glasses of champagne, layer a lip pencil underneath a matching matte liquid lipstick.

UNFUSSY HAIR

Spring 2016 is all about beautifully undone and casual bridal styles. Modern hair is simple and realistic. Some designers, like Amsale, kept to sleek, deep side parted low buns while others opted for beachy and understated waves. A loosely pinned twist on textured hair would be the perfect way to bring the runway to real life. For an extra touch of whimsy thread a few fresh flowers through your lustrous strands or add a jeweled headpiece for a shot of old school glamour.





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Ghosts of PESSOA

Photography by **Ezequiel De La Rosa**

All designs by **Storytailors**

Poem by **Dave Wise**

Her light **shines**
Blinding all but me
With a spirit lighter than air
The way she looks at me
The **smile** in her eyes
All to melt my heart
Lifting me with her
Alone we are still
Together we soar
Not even the Clouds
can stay the **passion**









Production Credits

Modelled by
Dania Darie @ Face Models

Styling and Management by **Jorge Costa**
and **Rui Araujo**

The Elegant BAG LADY

Words by **Megan Jander**

For all the fashionistas out there, we know, you know that hand bags are more than just an accessory. They express individuality, creativity, style, and convenience. **APRELLE DUANY** is devoted to creating this exquisite handbag collection, with the most discriminating woman in mind.

As a child, Aprelle loved to play with her grandmother's handbags and accessories and actually believed that anyone could wear a white T-shirt and jeans, but when they added that special accessory, their handbag, they would stand out from the crowd.

Ultimately, Aprelle's inspiration for her collection, comes from assessing the industry and noting what's not being made in the market. something new and innovative, not is already in the market. Being able process and something as simple as into her designs. She also is inspired homage to the people who have Collection" was inspired by many want to add more positive images to an opportunity to educate people."

Aprelle has always had a set goal When looking at the Top 100 List how the list was very exclusive wanted to be the first African list. I want to push diversity image."

Aprelle's collections cater to oriented, confident woman who of a trend-follower. She caters to is also fashion conscious, the global last throughout a lifetime. "When you work hard, you deserve to spoil yourself every once in a while."

Aprelle then fills in the gaps with re-creating or re-developing what to travel a lot aids in her inspiration a flower or cloud can be incorporated by personal stories. "I like to pay come before me. My "Neutrals African American pioneers' stories. I the African American community, it's

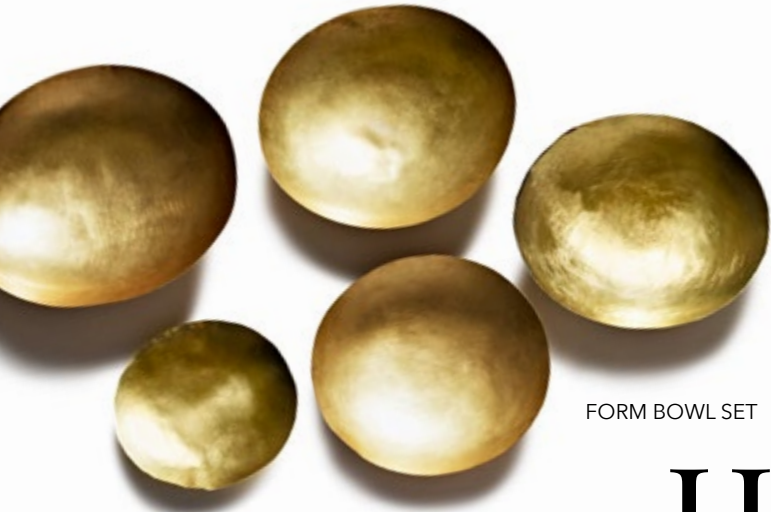
in mind for her collections. of Luxury Brands, she noticed and lacked diversity. "I American woman on the top and expand the luxury

the multi-faceted, career is a trend-setter instead the professional woman who woman who invests in pieces that can

Her tip for World Bride Magazine's readers? "Do not take your time and your passions or gifts for granted. Make your gift a priority, even if it's not a full time job."

available at www.aprelleduany.com





FORM BOWL SET



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VESSEL

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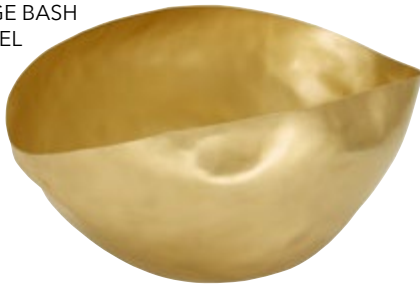
SCENTED
EARTH
CANDLE



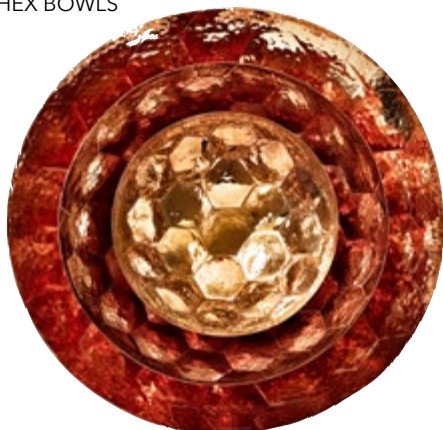
STONE PESTLE &
MORTAR



STONE
SPICE
GRINDER



LARGE BASH
VESSEL



HEX BOWLS



Late Night EARLY MORNING

Photography by **Christopher Kolk**

Fashion Editor **Carlton Jones**

Styling by **Rashida Meggett**

Hair and Makeup by **Melanie Harris**

Nails by **Victor Amos** using **Nars**

Model **Ashika Pratt** @ **Trump**

Shot on Location @ **Chatwal Hotel**



Bra & Underwear by Cosabella
Long Robe by Francielle Stiefelmann

A woman with dark, wavy hair is standing in a dimly lit room, leaning against a wooden door. She is wearing a black lace balconette bra and a black corseted skirt. She is also wearing a black lace choker, small hoop earrings, and a large ring. Her hands are clasped in front of her waist. A lamp with a white shade is visible in the background to the right.

Balconette Bra by Francielle Stiefelmann
Corseted Skirt by Francielle Stiefelmann
Collar by Francielle Stiefelmann
Earrings by David Yurman
Ring by Laruicci



Bra & Underwear by La Perla
Kaftan by KAS New York
Ring by Laruicci



Bra by Body Binds
Blouse by Anne Bowen



Bra & Camisole by Cosabella
Bracelet by Shiny Squirrel PR*



Corset by Roger Rodney
Rings by Larucci



Bodysuit by Cosabella
Earrings by Haus of Topper
Necklace by Pono



Gown by Naeem Khan
Veil by Anthony Maxwell



Cape by Carlton Jones
Bra & Underwear by Body Binds



K.Lynn Simone Perele Insolence
Balcony Bra White



K.Lynn Simone Perele
Insomnie Push Up Bra
Ivory



K.Lynn Simone Perele Queen
Push Up Bra Ivory



K.Lynn Simone Perele
Insomnie Thong Ivory



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Shorty Ivory

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Blanc



K.Lynn Flora Nikrooz Babydoll White



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NUBIAN *Princess*

Photography by **Sean Watters**

Fashion by **Sahar Azab** and **Maissa Azab**

Makeup by **Victor Amos** using **Face Atelier**

Hair by **Chanelle Morris** using **Dark and Lovely**

Modelled by **Suzan Idris**

Shot on location at El Moez Li Din Allah street, Qism el Gamaleya, Cairo, Egypt

Fashion assistant **Jasmine Attia**



Dress by Hisham Aboul Ela
Earrings by 'The Dressing Room'
Cuff by Mema El Shafey

أهلى

White Dress by Queens at Saphir Couture
Pink Caftan by Bohogallery
Cuff by Azza Fahmy
Ring by Azza Fahmy
Necklace by 'The Dressing Room'









Pants by Temraza
Pearl beaded top by Temraza
Ring by Azza Fahmy



Pants by Temraza
Pearl beaded top by Temraza
Ring by Azza Fahmy



Dress by Hisham Aboul Ela
Rings by Mema El Shafey
Cuff by Mema El Shafey





White dress by Malak El Ezzawy
Bracelets by Azza Fahmy
Earrings by Azza Fahmy
Caftan by Bohogallery



White Dress by Malak El Ezzawy
Earrings by Azza Fahmy
Caftan by Bohogallery



White dress by Queens at Saphir couture
Pink caftan by Bohogallery
Cuff by Azza Fahmy
Ring by Azza Fahmy
Necklace by 'The Dressing Room'

Lounging

Location **Waldorf Astoria (RAK)**

Photography by **Tony Fadel**

Fashion by **Carlton Jones**

Makeup by **Veronica Maria**

Hair by **Khelie French**

Modelled by **Annie Nayyar**

Around

WWe are all so busy. We find a million things to do except rest - luxuriously. Taking a moment to stop and lounge in our beautiful homes that have every feature imaginable; from the state of the art stereo surround sound system to the oversized screen high definition television and the top shelf alcohol that slides effortlessly into our handmade crystal glassware.

It is all straight from the pages of the top selling luxury magazines advertiser's pages.





This downtime should also include the finest fabrics to grace our tired body after a long and soothing whirlpool bath with imported bath oils. You can truly maximize your downtime with an exquisite selection of wardrobe which impacts your most elegant leisure settings.

Silk is an all-time favorite for a reason. Not only is it "the" most undeniably beautiful fabric - it's a statement of luxury that allows our imagination to take us away from the hustle and bustle of our lives. These naturally light, cool and body-impacting fibers seem to always create an entire story around a special night at home.

This classic "wash & wear" garment is the right fabric for the seasoned traveler. Silk's elegant ease mixed with its effortless chic du jour has become a beautiful obtainable reality. Your closet can't have enough silk and you must begin to take off enough time to rejuvenate.

Take my word, I too had to force myself to appreciate a few precious moments to recharge. And, now, I am on a regular schedule - in my lovely silk loungers! Make that on the rocks!





ART LITERATURE



Words by Annalisa Arcoleo

We are proud to introduce you to something glamorous, interesting, and historical; while at the same time, something that will be a pearl for your eyes and your knowledge: Art of Flying.

Art of Flying is the last book written by Josh Condon. He literally brings the readers through the history of flight, from the beginning of the jet age in the 1940s and 1950s, when air travel was at the forefront of technology, culture, and luxury to the present, allowing us to discover what has changed in the art of flying. In his book, Condon explores the fascinating evolution of flights, telling us the cultural history from the mid- twentieth century to the present, from technological developments such as pressurized cabins and the Concorde to the flair of custom crew uniforms, by renowned designers including Dior, Emilio Pucci, and Moncler. Air travel throughout history is a symbol of the cutting edge.

We asked the author why did he write a book about flights. Even if Condon has covered everything from travel, technology, automotive and fashion, his response was unexpected: "People. I

wrote my book because I am fascinated by how the years have changed the purpose for which we invented airplanes. At the beginning, airplanes were used to transport items, they weren't created for humans.

“Since the birth of passenger air travel, airlines have celebrated the glamour of flying.”

— Josh Condon

Over the years their use was expanded, in wars, for example, airplanes were used by the military. As is the same today. I was interested in writing a book talking about flights because I am fascinated by the facts that something created for transport items or for wars in the past, is actually the most important means of transportation for human beings. Airplanes helped us to discover the world, and a lot of technological processes have been made over the years to let humans use these as much as possible.”

This book is not only historical it is a trip through the evolution of flying. It's history, it's technology, it's fashion, it's art, it's the changing of a concept, it's a story about people, it's a story about fashion. We had the privilege to attend the inauguration in a sublime and sophisticated location - The Plaza Hotel. The photos are lovely and gives you a better understanding of the great aesthetic power from the cover.

A special thank to Thomas Flohr, founder and chairman of VistaJet, Nina Flohr, creative director of VistaJet, Martine and Prosper Assouline, founders of Assouline.

In partnership with VistaJet and lavishly, The Art of Flying celebrates the golden past and the dream of luxury air travel today, something that you can't let get away.

Author: Josh Condon
Publisher: Assouline

Specification
Size: 11 x 14 in. - 28 x 35 cm
Pages: 176
Illustrations: 120
Cover: Hardcover in a luxury slipcase
ISBN: 9781614284611
Price: \$175 - €115

available at www.assouline.com





20 SONGS FOR YOUR WORLD WEDDING PLAYLIST

Words by Taylor M. Johnson

I searched far and wide for songs that should be in rotation on your big day – some old, some new, and others borrowed – so head to iTunes or YouTube and enjoy!

The grand entrance is everything. Jeenah Jeenah, a traditional Palestinian song meaning “we came”, is a popular choice at Arab weddings when the bride and groom enter. The romantically hypnotic Doqo El Mazaher by Ra’esa Afifi is often played during the bride’s candle dance. Here are some more tunes that make for a memorable processional or first dance:

- 2Face Idibia – African Queen
- Etta James – At Last
- The Flamingos – I Only Have Eyes For You
- Chrisette Michele – A Couple of Forevers
- Fish Leong – Wo Xi Huan
- Nat “King” Cole and Natalie Cole – Unforgettable
- Traditional Greek Wedding Song – Oraia Poy ‘Nai I Nifi Mas
- Aventura – Un Beso

Lebanese hit-maker, Fares Karam, is a familiar presence in many Arab receptions with 3al 3een Molayteen and El Tannoura (“the skirt”), both popular for the men’s dance. When it comes time to party, these tracks guarantee empty chairs and a full dance floor:

- Melhem Zein – 3alawah
- Ihab Tawfik – Allah 3elik Ya Sidi
- P-Square – Personally
- Elvis Crespo – Suavemente
- Shahrukh Khan, Lata Mageshkar, & Udit Narayan – Mehndi Laga Ke Rakhna
- Los Van Van – Azucar
- 4x4 – Yesi Yesii
- V.I.C. – The Wobble

TWO PEOPLE *Four Seasons*

Words by **Marsha Reeves Jews**

For more than ten years, I have been strangely fascinated by the Four Seasons International Hotel Group and their business model, which includes private and corporate ownership and management. Their journey began in the 1960s and they have maintained their vision well into the 21st century. While their roots are deeply entrenched in Canada, their international reach has been a game changer and trendsetter for more than ten decades, where hospitality, luxury, and tradition intersect worldwide.

I have often wanted to just sit and chat with their leadership and the opportunity never presented itself, until I met two incredible directors in Egypt and learned about their steadfast vision and focus: Cesare Rouchdy, Regional Director of Marketing, and Maria Jagla, General Manager of Four Seasons in Sharm El Sheikh.

Maria Jagla is an amazing German-born woman who grew up loving math and thought it was a

clear path to success. That was until she worked with her parents in their bed and breakfast and became hooked on the field of hospitality, where she found use for her penchant for math. Little did she realize, this newfound passion would open the door to the most prestigious properties in the world. From three to five star properties in Australia, San Francisco, Chicago, Maui, New York, and London and now the ultimate as first female in the Middle East for the Four Seasons brand in Sharm El Sheikh.



I was delighted to learn how she is comfortable with her company and their pipeline which is a model for success. Her time in Egypt has broadened her scope and allowed her to develop programs that engage her staff and expand much needed space on their magnificent property. Needless to say, the

Sharm El Sheikh is one of the most prestigious in Egypt, nestled on the Red Sea with beautiful waterside activities and rooms overlooking the sea that are to die for.



My conversation with Cesare Rouchdy was about the Four Seasons and their traditions he markets for hotels in Egypt, ranging from residential properties to corporate, conference, and wedding facilities. Their service mantra is, "They buy you piece of mind", and they truly know their customers, from the guests that stop in for their regular drink to the women of the Middle East who find comfort in the spas. Their chefs are world class with a local touch. What I found interesting was that each property is distinctive from the artwork and interior design, all determined by their Hotel Committee. I was also fascinated by the fact that in the Four Season Family, they manage agreements with private hotel owners who purchase the rights to the use of their name. Four Seasons Residences are absolutely distinctive with a portfolio of Four Seasons luxury real estate that includes villas, estate homes, townhouse or condominiums to

purchase or rent.

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at the First Residence is located on the west bank of the Nile River with a 20-story tower and features a floating restaurant on the river, with lounges, banquet, and meeting spaces. This extraordinary hotel has incredible views of the Nile, the Pyramids of Giza and the Cairo Botanical and Zoological Gardens. The Four Seasons has made a vast investment in Egypt and I now know why. It is an amazing country with a long history, coupled with the right leadership to oversee this global brand that exudes luxury. Gosh, they even have a fleet of Four Season Jets. Need I say more?

Information on the company can be accessed through the Four Seasons website at www.fshr.com



AriSi

The German Wunderkinder of Vintage Festivities

Words by **Susan Dilworth**

Wedding planner, Simone Vigas, and Location Designer, Ariane Lenhardt, are AriSi. These two highly creative German Frauleins design events that celebrate traditions intermixed with legend and mythology. AriSi embraces the pure magic of vintage festivities while honoring the customs of their German ancestry. Ariane and Simone have transformed the most romantic and picturesque places that their German homeland has to offer, into a kaleidoscope of colors and splendor.

Completely hidden and secret landscapes are lovingly and lavishly staged by this exclusive wedding and location designer duo. With a few experienced wand swings, AriSi lightens up any comely community center, any hard-line motorcycle clubhouse, or any desolate field of loneliness. The visual transformation that comes to life before the guests and clients alike will leave them speechless.

As the beautiful holiday seasons approach, festivities are leaving pastels and soft hues behind and anticipating the deep fall color explosions as well as the heartwarming winter wonderland hues.

If reality invites you to dream – *then you have entered the realm of AriSi!*

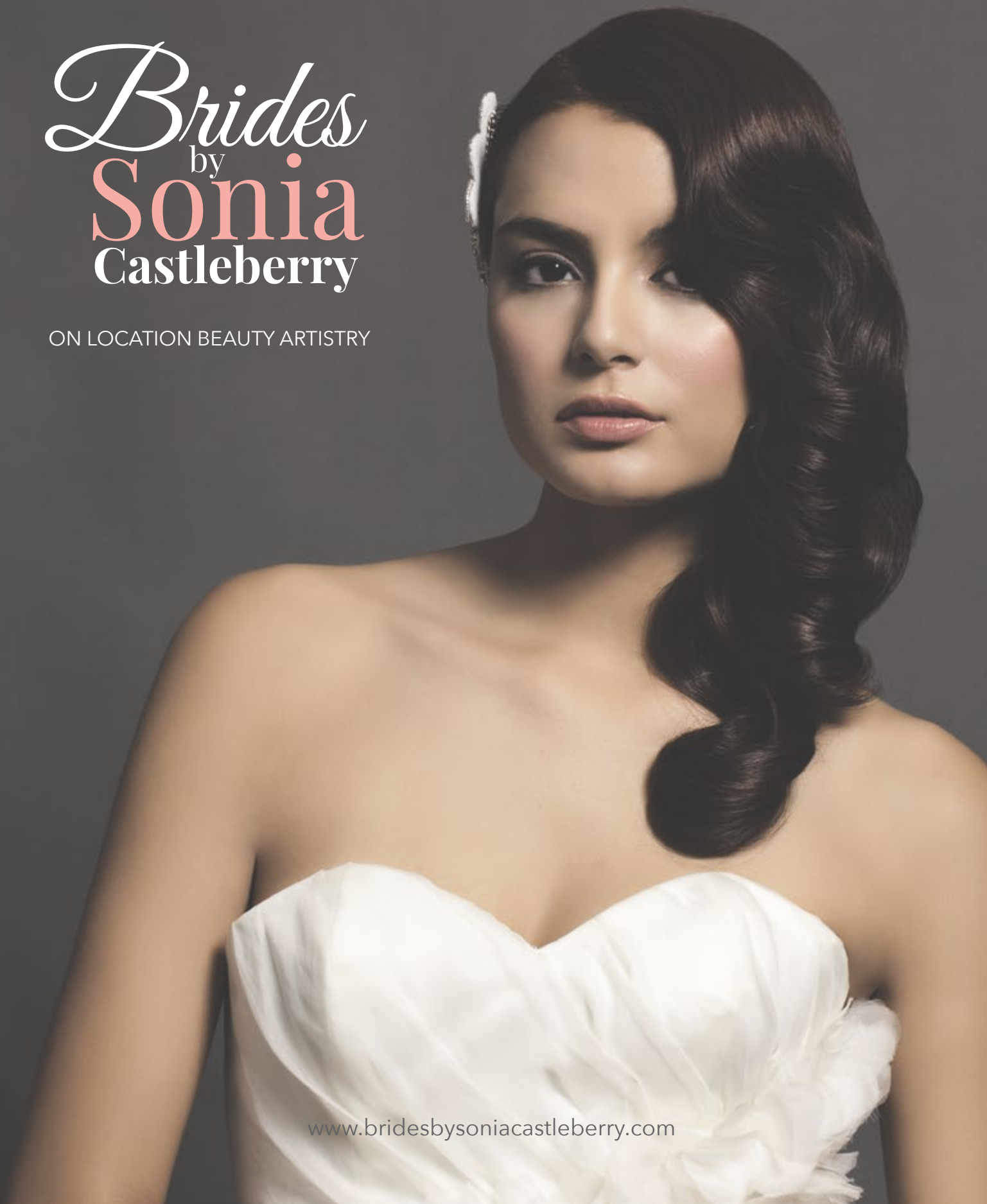


Images courtesy of Peter Dehm

Brides by **Sonia** Castleberry

ON LOCATION BEAUTY ARTISTRY

www.bridesbysoniacastleberry.com



Un *vin* délectable

Words by **Caroline Hoctan**
Translation by **Helen Taylor**
Photography by **Isabelle Rozenbaum**

Le vin est souvent synonyme de plaisirs raffinés. Dans le monde entier, il fait rêver : sésame des moments partagés, du savoir-vivre, du bon goût et de la fête, le vin est auréolé de ce pouvoir d'enchanter les sens, d'enivrer les esprits, de réchauffer les cœurs. C'est bien connu, le vin n'est pas une boisson : c'est un nectar ! Pour évoquer sa fascination planétaire, pour tenter d'expliquer sa magie, pour percer ses secrets, pour l'approcher au plus près, il n'y a pas trente-six destinations où se rendre mais une et une seule : Bordeaux, dans le Sud-Ouest de la France. Parmi les plus beaux vignobles au monde que dominent de grands châteaux et des domaines somptueux, au cœur de soirées vinicoles prisées, sur de magnifiques tables que recouvrent d'épaisses nappes, des vaisselles de style, des compositions florales délicates, le vin est fêté chaque année comme un roi. Le nombre de verres à pied - jusqu'à six par convive - prouve que boire du vin est une affaire importante sinon un art : le repas est ainsi ponctué par différents crus classés qui correspondent, pour chacun, aux mets servis durant la soirée. À chaque vin son verre, à chaque verre un vin à déguster dont l'ensemble forme, sur ces tables dressées comme des tableaux de maître, des pléiades de couleurs et de reflets chatoyants. Les invités eux-mêmes, comme s'ils se rendaient à un mariage princier, resplendent dans leurs tenues chics parées de bijoux précieux et de montres de luxe. L'une de ces soirées prestigieuses - parmi les plus belles soirées françaises

Wine is often synonymous with sophisticated pleasures. In the whole world, one dreams of shared moments of understanding, of good taste and of celebrating the festival, as wine radiates its ability to enchant the senses, to raise the spirits and to warm the heart. It's well known that wine is not just a drink: it's nectar! To evoke this global fascination, to try to explain its magic, to uncover its secrets, to get close, there are not 36 destinations where this is revealed but one and one only: Bordeaux in south west France. Among the most beautiful vineyards in the world which is dominated by chateaux and sumptuous estates, at the heart of wine appreciation evenings, on magnificent tables, covered in fine quality tablecloths, stylish crockery, delicate flower arrangements, wine is celebrated every year, like a king. The number of glasses, up to six per guest - proves that drinking wine is an important business, if not an art; the meal is also punctuated by different classes of crus which correspond with the courses served during the evening. To each wine it's glass, to each glass a wine to taste which together create, on these tables adorned like those of the nobility, the plethora of colors and sparkling reflections. The guests themselves, as if attending a royal wedding, resplendent in their chic outfits and precious jewels, and luxury wristwatches. One of these prestigious evenings - among the grandest of French soirées - has become the essential meeting place of the whole world of wine amateurs who partake in their





- est d'ailleurs devenue le rendez-vous incontournable des amateurs de vin du monde entier qui partagent leur passion pour les grands vins du Médoc et des Graves, de Sauternes et Barsac : il s'agit de la « Fête de la Fleur » qui, depuis un demi-siècle, se déroule en juin. Cette fête tire précisément son nom de la fleur de la vigne dont, en cette saison printanière, les vignerons guettent l'apparition et la surveillent avec jalousie puisque la qualité de la floraison des vignes est le signe de vendanges prometteuses. Aujourd'hui, la « Fête de la Fleur » réunit plus de 1.500 invités qui - des stars de cinéma, des artistes et de nombreuses autres personnalités politiques et vinicoles - honorent de leur présence cette fête de renommée mondiale.

passion for the great wines of Medoc, Graves, Sauternes and Barsac: it is a question of The Flower Festival which for half a century has taken place in June. The festival takes its name from the flower of the vine which the wine growers look out for in spring and guard almost jealously as the quality of the flowering vines is a sign of the harvest to come. Today, the Flower Festival reunites more than 1500 guests, who - stars of cinema, artists and many other political personalities and wine experts - honor with their prescience this world renowned festival.

La Fête de la Fleur est organisée par la Commanderie du Bontemps, 38 rue Ferrere, 33000 Bordeaux, France

www.commanderiedubontemps.com

The WILLCOX

Words by Susan Dilworth



The Willcox in Aiken, South Carolina is the quintessential Southern hostelry experience. Entering its majestic halls, the elegant design jaunts history with an overwhelming feeling of idyllic time travel. World Bride Magazine, still striding on the winds of Southern charm, was inspired to present our readers with a portrait of bridal fashion within its legendary walls. With an exclusive selection of exquisite bridal gowns from Sho'Ané Bridal Designs, we encompassed the prestigious air within the hotel renowned for its award winning elevation of status.

Weddings that are held at The Willcox receive the best kept promise of extensive service, which matches any degrees of international luxury hotels with gentleman class and charm that only the South can offer. Executive Chef Regan Browell personally consults all catering wishes no matter how original they might be; like the bride's grandma's secret "Shrimp & Grits" recipe.

The Willcox Spa wedding concierge packages incorporate the best products and beauty schedule to fit your lifestyle, budget and time consultation. Its turn-key wedding planning is certified by Southern Living.



"We are happy to provide tailored opportunities and magical occasions for unforgettable celebrations, including weddings, vow renewals, engagements and anniversaries. Honored as one of the area's finest hotels year after year,

our intuitive service, distinctive spa and imaginative menus lend an unmistakable tone of grandeur and prestige to any celebration."

~ ensures General Manager Tina McCarthy

The Willcox entices as a perfect backdrop for a romantic, deep down south getaway. Its picturesque ambiance, exquisite service, and dreamy rooms and suites deliver a day of joy and laughter.



christine j. brandt
jewelry

christinejbrandt.com



Baccarat Wine Glasses

When it comes to decorating, your table is one of the most important pieces for it is the backdrop for the story you tell your guests over their scrumptious meal.

As you determine the linen, stemware and florals, an important aspect that must be addressed is the options for flatware, which can be daunting; every utensil has its own purpose. Not only are you in search of the right flatware brand that speaks style and class, you are tasked with knowing how to properly use each piece of flatware. Fear not, for we have some suggestions on the perfect flatware items and how to brush up on your tabletop etiquette.

HOMEWARE

FOOD & DRINK

Michael C. Fina: Represents his own exclusive design and a smart collection of different flatware designers. This luxury retailer epitomizes beauty and functionality in all its flatware; adds the right touch of elegance to your tabletop assortment. Interestingly, all their designers favor the same kinds of materials varying from sterling silver, wood, or gold and these unique pieces can complement each other if styled correctly.

Bloomingdale's: This classy retailer is all about matching sets when it comes to flatware. So if you prefer the convenience of buying your flatware in an arrangement without skimping on refinement and efficacy, this is the place to go. Their line includes Vera Wang and Ricci Argentieri.

Hermès: Known for their sophistication and style in all things Hermès, includes their extraordinary flatware which exhibits the same high-end qualities with only two collections to choose from: HTS and Attelage. HTS, or Hermès Tout Simple, lives up to its name; and Attelage is the fancier of the two collections. However, both embody the simplistic

Words by **Megan Jander**

A spoonful of SUGAR





Bernardaud Eden Turquoise setting



Baccarat Cocktail and Toasting glasses

elegant concept and add just the right touch to your table.

Bernardaud: Touts 150 years of experience; they know how to style your tabletop for any occasion. This brand is all about matching sets, and they have multiple collections from which to choose. When it comes to designs from the classic white to the fancy florals, your stylish sense will be on display for all to see.

Baccarat: When it comes to tabletop accessories, they're best known for their beautiful crystal glassware. Glassware is considered a utensil. You must have the proper glass to match your flatware for each course. There are different styles of stemware for specific wines or cocktails. If you are only interested in the basic crystal glass request a consult with their representative.

Of course, your investment in stylish flatware also means understanding how to properly use it. Knowing proper table etiquette says a lot about your sense of style and class, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. Out to in: An oldie but goodie when it comes to flatware etiquette. Always start with the utensils furthest from the plate and with each course, work your way in towards the plate.
2. Signals: Flatware can be used as a signal to show your meal progress. For example, to signal rest, place fork and knife diagonally on the plate with the fork tines down. To signal completion, place fork and knife side by side on the plate with the fork

tines down.

3. Knife Rules: Never hold your knife while you are eating from your fork. Only use your knife when needed, then place it down before you take a bite.
4. Fork and Spoon Rules: There isn't much difference between a salad fork and a dinner fork aside from size, so it shouldn't matter which you use, right? Wrong. Each fork is designed to perfectly accommodate the type and portion of food you are eating. The same rule applies for spoons. Use each flatware for its designed purpose.

TIP: Never slurp or slouch when using your flatware. Even if you are using the correct utensil, always have good manners and posture, too.



Vera Wang Set

Available from Bloomingdale's

Ricci Argentieri Set

Available from Bloomingdale's

Interview by Rahma Himid

Your wedding starts the moment you send your very first note to say you're going to get married. Never underestimate the power of those small pieces of paper that inform your friends and family that you would love for them to share in your big life changing day. Of course, you could just text everyone, it is the 21st century after all. Or, and we think this is the better option, you could start your special day planning from your heart with invitations that are designed with you and your day in mind. We spent time with the Creative Director and Founder of "Design by Louma" and asked her about her career as a stationery designer, her life and how it is to work in the UAE.

Louma

Bardawil

Creative Director & Founder
of Design by Louma

HOW DID IT ALL START?

After having designed my sister's and my own wedding invitations, and receiving such positive feedback on them all around, I realized there are many brides out there who would love to have truly unique, personal wedding invitations but have a limited number of specialized wedding stationery designers they can turn to. This is especially true for Arabic-speaking brides who desire custom luxury invitations in Arabic, with or without calligraphy. There was a real lack of designers who have the passion and creativity to create something truly personal and unique for each bride, and be able to do so in Arabic too. This prompted me to resign as advertising art director for a renowned international creative agency and establish my own business as luxury wedding and special events stationery designer.

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT SETTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE UAE?

The best things are the ease with which a company can be set up, especially in a free zone. With the help of an agent,

structuring the company and obtaining the trade licence was a very easy and headache-free process. The UAE being the heart of the Middle East in terms of commerce and international fusion makes this country a great place to start a new business, as there are countless opportunities both within the UAE and the rest of the Middle East.

The worst thing is the high cost of the licence. A one-time set-up fee would be manageable, but the costly, yearly recurring licence renewal fee is quite a heavy impact on a small start-up business.

IF YOU'RE NOT FROM THE UAE, WHY DID YOU MOVE HERE?

I am originally from Lebanon where I studied graphic design and started my career in the advertising industry. I moved to Dubai in 2005 due to the work opportunities in the advertising field. Because of the international exposure and outreach that Dubai has, Dubai was a much more appealing location to work from in my line of business than my native Beirut was.

WHAT DID YOUR RESEARCH ENTAIL?

Of course a thorough competitive review, analysing which companies are currently providing similar services, their quality and their shortcomings. Furthermore I studied the habits, customs and budgets of my target customers to analyse the business potential for my company.

GREATEST SUCCESSES TO DATE?

We have very quickly managed to build a client base not only within the UAE,

but worldwide. Within a few months of starting our business, we had clients from Europe, Middle East and Africa and we have managed to quickly build an international name and reputation for ourselves. Besides this, media from all over the world had featured our company or the products we create. Our company and our products have been featured in a number of renowned online magazines and other publications.

OUTLINE, BRIEFLY, YOUR BUSINESS PLAN.

Design by Louma provides custom, luxury wedding and special event invitations & stationery, with special attention to personalized design and state of the art - or vintage - production techniques and quality. Design by Louma handles projects end-to-end, from first design brief to managing final production and shipping. All design is done in-house, lead by creative director Louma, and we work with a number of suppliers, printers and couriers/freight forwarders to ensure we can provide the best product at the best quality and the best price.





DID YOU MANAGE TO STICK TO YOUR LAUNCH DEADLINE AND IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Yes, of course, I am a planner after all.

HOW HAS SOCIAL MEDIA HELPED YOUR BUSINESS?

Social Media helped our business big time in offering our followers and potential brides a platform where they can see the making of our products, the quality of our products, and our attention to detail in our products. We have partnered up with like minded bridal websites to share real time stories, interviews and inspiration boards to our brides: it's not just having a Facebook or Instagram account, it's about updating it with interesting content. Content that inspires and entices others to share with friends and family around them.

HOW DO YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS GO THE EXTRA MILE?

We push the boundaries by creating something unique and very personal for each of our brides. We understand and feel how important and personal a wedding is. The invitation - which is the first impression - and one of the few tangible memories of the wedding - should therefore truly reflect the

personality of the wedding couple. Furthermore, as we are a small, boutique company with true passion for what we do, we are not too concerned with policies, terms & conditions and processes. We care only about producing a product that each client is truly happy with, and will go out of our way to achieve this.

WHO / WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Being a designer, you can say every piece of design around me inspires: whether it's the shape of neon light bulb, a fabric swatch, a piece of furniture etc....

I love Richard Branson's open attitude to share his knowledge and experience instead of keeping it to himself.

FUTURE PLANS?

We are planning to expand into a bigger design studio in the near future. Furthermore, we are exploring ways in which we execute (part of) the printing and production ourselves so that we have a tighter grip on the quality of the products that we create and create an even more unique product for our clients.

LIFE LESSONS?

Trust your instincts and beliefs. If you think you have it in you to create a business out of your passion, do it! Take at least 1 day off a week from work and do something you enjoy doing.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT LIVING IN THE UAE? AND THE MOST FRUSTRATING?

My favorite thing about Dubai is the fact that it is a harmonious melting pot of so many different nationalities. This makes Dubai a truly unique place on earth. All the different cultures, cuisines, music, dresses, outlooks, tastes... for creative people like myself, this provides new inspiration every day.

The most frustrating is the lack of skilled people with real passion for their job. Unfortunately, a lot of people choose to live in the UAE for the perks of the expatriate life with a high paying job, rather than their passion for their profession. That will eventually reflect in the quality of the job they are doing.

Hands Fit for a KING

Words by **Adrian Fanus**

Prepare to take copious notes and make a list of ten of the most powerful, influential and stylist men in your country or world. I suggest you peruse as many films, the Internet, and magazines as possible and note their hands and fingernails. What do you notice? Are their nails dirty and untidy? Do they look like they have been bitten?

You and your bride will be the center of attention, from the top of your head, nails, to your shoes. Please be mindful, your hands will be the center of attention when wedding rings are exchanged and at the beautiful moment of cutting the cake.

Please don't be the groom who cringes with regret when the photographer delivers your wedding picture and dirty fingers and nails overshadow your beautiful moments.

It is 2015 and we are no longer confined by silly rules that try to define masculinity. You define yourself and having well-kept, polished nails adds to your attraction.

The following are the tools you will need and the process by which to execute the perfect manicure: Nail brush, small bowl of warm water, nail file, hand soap, nail clip, nail buffer, cuticle oil, cuticle stick, and hand moisturizer.

1. Use a nail brush to clean under fingernails.
2. Soak hands in warm water for a minute or two to soften hands and cuticles.
3. Use sharp edge of nail file to clean beneath fingernails to get rid of dirt and bacteria.
4. Wash hands again after step three.
5. Use nail clip and clip off the edges of nail. Be careful not to cut too short.
6. Smooth edges of nail using a nail file.
7. Use a buffer to buff surface of nails in one direction.
8. Apply cuticle oil to cuticle of nails to soften the cuticle. That's the white strip at base of nail.
9. Gently push back the cuticle using the flat end of the cuticle stick.
10. Apply moisturizer to hands and massage.

However, if these steps seem too complicated or too much work, then a trip to the nearest nail salon will do just fine. Or for an added cost, have the nail technicians come to you on your wedding day!

ACCESSORIES

GROOM



Movado **1881** Automatic \$1495



Movado **SAPHIRE** \$1895



Movado **BOLD** \$995



Movado **BOLD**
Motion

\$695

// Bluetooth
// Android iOS compatible

Available from www.movado.com



2 piece Suit by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Cashmere Sweater by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Tie by **YVES SAINT LAURENT**
Pocket Square by **GUCCI**
Dress Shirt by **ZEGNA**

Production Credits

Photography by **Peter D Brown**
Styling by **David Chavez**
Grooming by **The Parker Twins**

Models

Dale Gray @ **RED** Model Management
Shannon Wallace @ **MAJOR** Model Management
Llyod Dickenson @ **RED** Model Management
Maxim Orlov @ **WILHELMINA** Model Management

Suited

Photography by **Peter D Brown**
Words by **Cedric Gray**

When you hear the word bespoke what is the first thought that comes to mind? In fact, some gentleman is reading this and you may be saying to yourself, I have never heard that term before. Well, it's about time we have a quick one-on-one lesson. Let's start by defining what Bespoke is.

Bespoke (pronounced bee-SPOHK) is a term used in the United Kingdom as well as other places for custom made product(s) or service.

How many times have you been out and noticed a gentleman in a very well tailored and very precise fitting suit? You are probably saying several times and you thought to yourself...that suit looks like it was made just for him. Well, I guarantee you that the gentleman had his suit custom made just for him by one of the most amazing tailors or artisans that has been skilled to make product specific just for the individual.

Now, how many times have you seen a guy with a suit on that was not so tailored nor form fitting. It makes you think...this guy just walked into the store and bought the first suit he looked at. That is a huge NO NO!

Guys the fit of a suit is something that should be taken very seriously. I know that not every guy can afford to have a bespoke suit made because they are exceptionally expensive. In fact, they can cost thousands of dollars. There is a lot that goes into a bespoke suit. It involves choosing a swatch (fabric), getting full body measurements, making a pattern and sending out all the gathered information to the tailor to have it made just for you.

Inside the jacket of a bespoke suit you will usually find the name of the guy it was made for. A bespoke suit is not something that you can just walk into a department store to buy. It doesn't matter if it is a designer suit or not. You will never find a bespoke suit just hanging on a rack. However, there is still hope for the guy that buys a suit off the rack.

Although, it's important to know what to look for. In fact, I am very strategic when I go out to buy a suit. Here are some tips and tools that I want to offer and suggest. These have worked for me and I think they could work for you.

1. Know your budget. How much are you willing to spend for an off the rack suit?
2. Always consider the purpose and/or occasion in which the suit will be worn.
3. Know what type of suit works for your body type. (i.e. Single breasted suit vs double breasted suit, two button suit vs three button suit, slim fit suit vs classic fit)
4. Choose an all year around fabric.
5. Make sure you own a black, navy or gray before purchasing a pinstripe, plaid or any other fashionable printed suit.
6. Consider stores like Zara, J. Crew Men's Shop, Club Monaco and TopMan just to name a few.
7. Find a local tailor to take the suit to so that he or she can make any necessary adjustments to make the suit. Remember, you want it to look like it was made just for you.



2 piece Suit by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Cashmere Sweater by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Tie by **YVES SAINT LAURENT**
Pocket Square by **GUCCI**
Dress Shirt by **ZEGNA**



2 piece Suit by Zara
Cashmere Tie by **BROOKS BROTHERS**
Dress Shirt by **CALVIN KLEIN**
Pocket Square by **RALPH LAUREN**



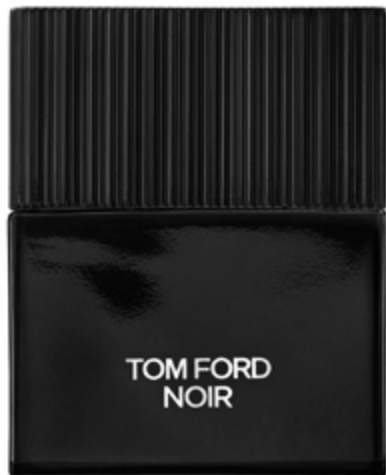
2 piece Suit by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Cashmere Sweater by **GEORGIO ARMANI**
Tie by **YVES SAINT LAURENT**
Pocket Square by **GUCCI**
Dress Shirt by **ZEGNA**



Custom Tuxedo by TOMMY HILFIGER
Tie by YVES SAINT LAURENT
Formal Shirt by ISAIA
Pocket Square by LIBERTY LONDON

GROOMING PRODUCT Round-Up

By Adrian Fanus



**Tom Ford
Noir**

\$135 WWW.SEPHORA.COM/TOMFORD

This oriental, sensual fragrance captures the dual facets of the Tom Ford man – the refined, urbane sophisticate – who the world gets to see, and the intriguingly sensuous, private man they don't.



**Kiehl's
Facial Fuel**

\$35 WWW.KIEHL'S.COM

This "facial recovery accelerator" helps skin resist the effects of environmental stress for a healthy, invigorated appearance. Skin will feel refueled, re-energized and revitalized! SPF 15 offers protection from skin-damaging UV rays.



**Kiehl's
Facial Fuel
Energizing Facial
Wash**

\$22 WWW.KIEHL'S.COM

Formulated with caffeine, vitamins, and invigorating citrus extracts to refresh and waken the skin. It also prepares skin for a less irritating, more comfortable shave. It also helps skin resist the effects of environmental stress and gives even dull, tired-looking skin a fresher, healthier appearance.



**Jack Black
Intense Therapy
Lip Balm**

\$7.50 WWW.GETJACKBLACK.COM

SPF 25 balm protects lips from sun and wind.



**Billy Jealousy
Molding Cream**

\$16 WWW.BILLYJEALOUSY.COM

A small amount goes a long way. It has a nice scent that some may find overpowering. The texture is light and not sticky. This will not flake, and will hold all day.



**Tweezerman
Pointed Tweezers**

\$24 WWW.TWEEZERMAN.COM

Finely tapered, precision points are hand-filed and perfectly aligned, making them ideal for stubble, ingrowns, and baby-fine brow and facial hair.



**Andis
Fast Feed Nose Hair Clippers**

\$15 WWW.AMAZON.COM

This is a great trimmer for trimming those stubborn nose hairs. It is battery operated and small enough to fit in your grooming bag. An essential grooming tool that every man should own.



Since its inception in 2009, Adrian Fanus Grooming (AFG) has redefined the grooming experience with hospitality, comfort and an excellence in customer service.

The philosophy of AFG functions as such, just as there is a difference between buying a suit off the rack and purchasing one that is tailor made, there is a difference between getting a generic haircut and receiving a bespoke grooming experience.



from the *Baths* of SIBA

Photography by **Ezequiel De La Rosa**

Designs by **Nuno Gama**









Production Credits

Modelled by
VASCO GAMA @ Central Models
HENRIQUES FRANCISCO @ Central Models
NUNO FERREIRA @ Central Models

Styling and Management by Jorge Costa and Rui Araujo
Shot on Location @ The Late Birds, Lisbon



PACKING Smart

Words by **Victor Amos**

We've all been there. Traffic is a mess, the kids are acting up, and we have to be at the airport in less than 3 hours. We don't have time for folding, and we certainly don't have the patience for organizing. How does one pack for a trip in record time? Packing cubes! Packing cubes makes your life easier by offering space-saving compression and color-coded organization. The best way to pack your cubes is by employing the "ranger roll" technique, where you roll your clothes into tiny logs. This helps you pack quickly while saving space; no need for folding. I would also recommend buying cubes in different sizes and colors to make identifying what's inside an easier task. Packing cubes are not just for your clothing either, they are also great for your electronics. Store your laptop cord, spare camera batteries, and small gadgets in them to prevent cord tangling. Let's look at some of our favorite models.



REI Expandable Packing Cubes
\$12.00 - \$20.00 USD

www.rei.com

Travel Tip

Want to save time at baggage claim and customs? If you're taking a short trip, consider packing the whole family into just one suitcase.

If you use your packing cubes wisely, you can allow 1 to 2 cubes per person, with each person having their own color.

The Eagle Creek 'No Matter What Flatbed 32' is a great suitcase for this. Its large, wide opening makes it easy to load and organize cubes, and its rigid back, yet soft body, makes it a flexible choice for those who will need to stuff souvenirs on the way home.



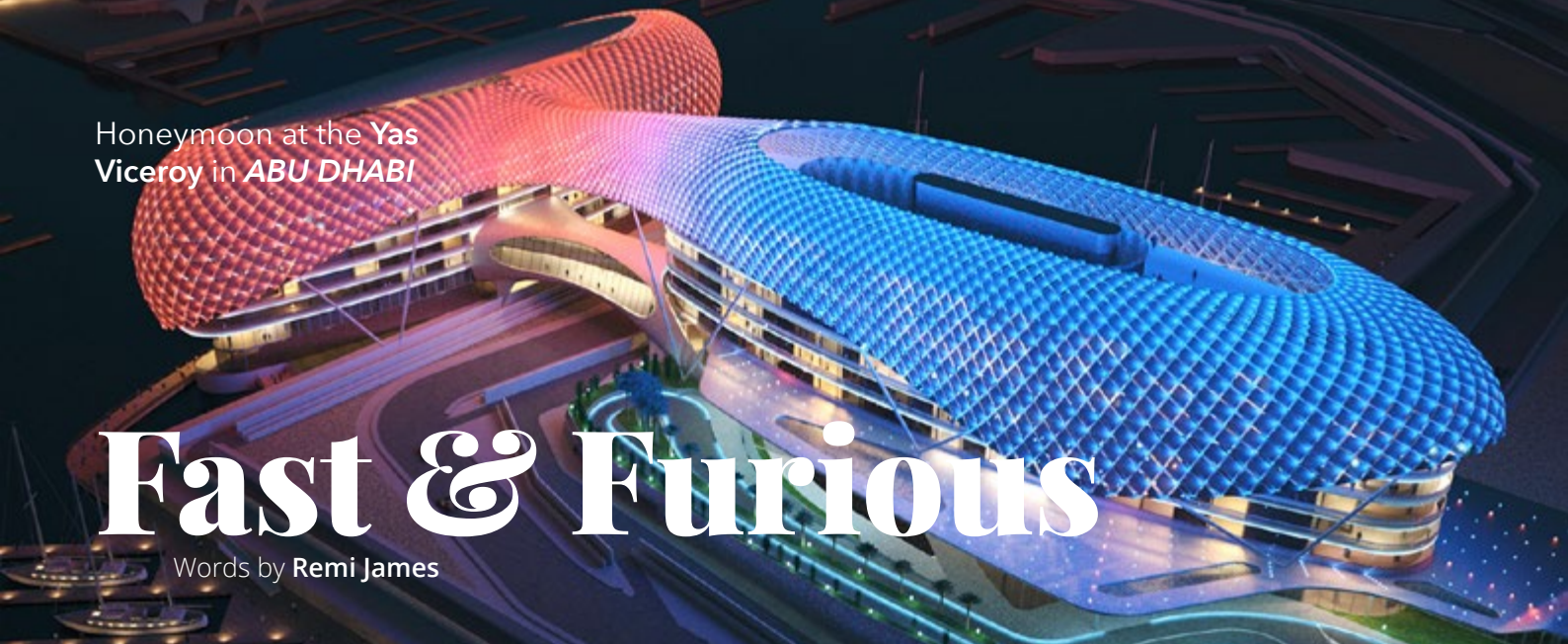
Eagle Creek 'No Matter What' Flatbed 32
\$220.00 USD

www.EagleCreek.com

Eagle Creek Pack-It Specter Starter Set
\$56.00 USD

www.EagleCreek.com





Honeymoon at the Yas
Viceroy in *ABU DHABI*

Fast & Furious

Words by **Remi James**

I love to travel and have stayed at some of the most luxurious hotels around the world. That being said, my most recent experience at the Yas Viceroy in Abu Dhabi Hotel was phenomenal. The Yas Viceroy design is futuristic with a wrap around Formula One Racetrack overlooking the Yas Marina, which docks some of the most expensive yachts in the world.

During my visit, I was fortunate to be there when Lewis Hamilton won the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix World championship on Yas Island, an extraordinary destination.

Each room and suite was elegantly designed and uniquely furnished with the most lavish amenities. A few of their luxury suites have balconies overlooking the racetrack.

As one of the world's most perfect honeymoon destinations, newlyweds will delight in the host of activities from exquisite award-winning spas with an exhaustive menu of services for couples or if you prefer, individual attention and personal services in one of the nine treatment rooms, equipped with hammam, steam rooms, rain showers and color therapy rooms, giving each guest a tranquil retreat for pampering and relaxation.

There is an extraordinarily vast variety of entertainment and activities from sunbathing on the beach, one of the many great night clubs or lounges – all under one roof! Enjoy the Yas Marina at Latitude, or perhaps dine at one of the 12 venues showcasing cuisine from all corners of the globe, including Japanese Tappan or hand-made

Italian pasta, then experience Abu Dhabi nightlife at Rush, the hotel's sensational lounge created by the designers of the Buddha Bar.

I thoroughly enjoyed a few days of the peace and tranquility before the start of the hectic Grand Prix weekend. It was quite interesting to watch the transformation once the Grand Prix starts; from a lovely, calm, relaxing atmosphere to the hotel being fully booked with each guest wearing earplugs due to the almost deafening sound of the fast cars racing passed.

We had access to the Pit Lane Walk on the practice day, which was absolutely amazing to be able to see the drivers up-close. PRICELESS! And, as an added bonus we were presented with several complimentary gifts including very cool Viceroy Baseball caps, designer wallets, purses, and luxury skincare, a really classy touch.

So if you and your partner both love watching the Grand Prix races and want to experience a most memorable time and experience the fast lane – literally this is your Honeymoon haven filled with every amenity available for the high roller and perfection at its finest.

How to travel to Abu Dhabi?

From London there are two airlines that travel non-stop: Etihad Airlines and British Airlines

To book 2015 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix hotel package with the Yas Viceroy Hotel: http://www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/abudhabi/activities/formula_1_race

EGYPT

Now & Then

Words by **Marsha Reeves Jews**
Photography by **Sean Watters**

As an impressionable child, I enjoyed the teachings of my Sunday school teacher who had the ability to bring my Bible to life; particularly with the incredible story of Moses and his journey from Egypt. It was one that touched my heart and left an indelible mark as to what a mother will do to protect her child.

We were invited to join the AmCham Egypt Travel & Tourism Committee. So off we went and arrived in Cairo and checked into the InterContinental Cairo Semiramis Hotel, an amazingly beautiful hotel nestled right at the edge of the Nile. My room had two balconies, one facing the Nile and the other facing the modern high-rises and business sector. There wasn't a person in the hotel that wasn't poised to assist. Their complimentary breakfast was beyond delicious with the freshest fruits, vegetables, and breads. And the wait staff was ready, willing and able to assist.

The schedule was a beautiful whirlwind, providing us an in-depth look at every major historical setting and museum. Each venue introduced yet another interesting nuance of Egyptian history, each artifact was more precious than the last. The men and women who were awaiting our arrival were the most professional and prepared representatives and guides, aiding in navigating a very intense and thought-provoking schedule.

Our first night, we enjoyed dinner with the AmCham membership, hosted by the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo

at the First Residence, literally on the Nile West Bank with the pyramids on the horizon. Every detail was absolutely stunning. Our dinner was on the terrace with an incredible pool and cabanas - an amazing space, clearly they paid attention to the smallest details and appointments.

One of the very interesting properties was the Uptown Cairo Golf Community. We dined in the Golf Clubhouse and learned more about this property that strategically rests at the foot of a large hill, the Mokattam, which overlooks the lights and action of Cairo. The properties are unique in their design, taking from the Egyptian and Spanish architecture and fitted with pools and desert vistas that are absolutely breathtaking.

Our next stop was to tour the West Bank at Luxor, one of the world's most critically important Egyptian sites that is often referred to as the Valley of the Kings. I was amazed and could hardly believe that much of the world's history has been retained and protected in so many temples. While our guides were thorough, it was apparent that there is so much more to see and learn, and I am definitely heading back to learn more about this particular area. We were delighted when it was time to enjoy a respite on a Dahabeya boat catered by the Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa - magnificent. This "river" boat is really a home, filled with incredible staterooms, whirlpool spas, and beautiful vistas from any seat on the three levels. I could spend a week floating amid the lushness of the banks and beauty of this amazing region.

I must admit, the Egyptian technology got the best of me. For the life of me I couldn't figure out how to turn on the water in the sink... a slight mechanical design detail that left me laughing hysterically and reminded me that the Egyptians are the authors of architectural design and engineering!

Luxor is a fascinating place filled with amazing temples and statues that are mind boggling. The sheer height and size gave way to my curiosity about the mysteries that these historical fixtures held. We had a divine lunch at the Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel, a five star hotel that hosts the most beautifully appointed suites that would comfortably host your immediate family.

My new home away from home is in Sharm El Sheikh Four Seasons, nestled on the Red Sea. First of all, I couldn't get over the fact that this is where God parted the waters and as I stood on the beach, I shed tears being reminded of the God I served and His magnificence. And, while I enjoyed my few moments for my spiritual departure, I did enjoy diving and swimming in the Red Sea, which I must say was very salty. We played along the coastline filled with resorts and private villas. A paradise that is tucked away and absolutely magnificent.

Sharm El Sheikh was the perfect backdrop for a starlight Bedouin dinner in the desert... seriously; pillows and low tables were perfectly arranged while we enjoyed our entertainment, grilled meal and incredible camaraderie with each of the guests. It was exactly how you see these outings in the movies, although I don't think they ever laughed as much as we did throughout

the evening... an excellent ice-breaker for your family and friends.

We landed in Cairo to spend our last moments touring the current Egyptian Museum and learn about what will be in the new one set to open in 2018. I was surprised at the age of the fixtures and artifacts that were contained in this building - more than 200,000 and the new museum will hold 300,000. This building will become an art museum for all the wonderful artwork that has been recovered. I know I will go back for the opening... somehow.

Our last night was spent on the terrace of the Mena House Hotel. This historical hotel has acres of lush green gardens and is situated in the shadows of the Great Pyramids of Giza. A charming historical property with a garden that is lush with exotic florals, trees and greens.

There's a wonderful story in this experience, one of love and peace for a nation, and a commitment from its leadership to be a better place for her citizens. I do hope you and your family have the opportunity to visit, host a destination wedding or enjoy your honeymoon. For it is there that the wonders of the world that kings and queens created an opulent life, which the Egyptians continue to share with the world.



Arabian Nights

Words by Victor Amos

When visiting the United Arab Emirates, it can seem difficult to find authentic old-world Emirati cultural experiences among the glistening residential towers and sprawling shopping malls. However, a short 1-hour drive outside of Abu Dhabi lies an oasis of Emirati cultural immersion. Built on 85,000 square meters, the Arabian Nights Village offers visitors a taste of traditional Bedouin life that cannot be missed.



Your experience begins in Abu Dhabi, where you will meet your driver and begin your 1-hour journey into the rural desert outskirts of the city. The drive takes you past beautiful scenery like Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, date palm farms, camel ranches, and picturesque dunes. Eventually, you end up on an off-road path down a dune valley, where you will soon be greeted by the towering palm tree standing at the entrance of the village.

The Arabian Nights Village offers visitors a choice of day trips or over-night stays. There are 36 rooms on the property, comprising four different types of accommodations: Bedouin tents, palm houses, Desert houses, and The Fort Tower. Each guesthouse is its own independent, detached dwelling with air conditioning, en-suite bathroom, and complimentary drinks.

What makes the Arabian Nights Village a memorable destination is its roster of activities. From relatively tame (camel-back rides) to the extreme (dune bashing), you will have to put effort forth to feel bored for even a minute. For those looking to relax and catch some sun, Arabian Nights Village offers a beautiful swimming pool and sunbathing spot aptly named "The Oasis." The palm tree-lined area includes a waterfall and lounging pods as well. The adventure seekers will want to head back to the SUVs and head out for the dunes! The dune-bashing excursion can only be described as a rollercoaster on the sand. The experienced drivers take you on an un-tethered, high-speed ride-n-slide through the shifting





sand-dunes surrounding the village. I highly recommend opting for the evening excursion, where you will get to witness the impossibly orange sun setting behind the haze of the dunes. During your dune bashing journey, you will also have the opportunity to visit a camel ranch and do some dune boarding!



The Arabian Nights Village rounds out its offerings with a traditional restaurant, Al Maqam Restaurant, which acts as the town square, if you will, of the village. Not only can you indulge in a traditional meal and shisha, you can also enjoy live music, belly dancing, get a henna application, or even pet a falcon. At night, the fire pits outside the restaurant are a great place to unwind and take in the magical happenings of the day, while enjoying the canopy of stars that appear in the desert night sky.

www.arabiannightsvillage.com
Arabian Nights Village Rd
Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
+971 2 676 9990



Southern Sun Hotel

Words by Victor Amos

ABU DHABI

Located in downtown Abu Dhabi, the Southern Sun hotel offers sweeping views of the skyline and waterways that comprise the heart of the city. The 350+ room hotel offers guests a rooftop swimming pool, sauna, gym, and restaurant. Each guest room is tastefully appointed, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, platform beds, sleek furniture, a large flatscreen television, and a gorgeous bathroom reminiscent of a spa.

Don't want to brave the desert heat? Hiding-out will not be a problem at the Southern Sun. The hotel's on-campus restaurants (The Foundry and Kahraman) offer mesmerizing ambiance and exquisite menu offerings to fit any taste. The Foundry offers both buffet and a la carte dining options for breakfast and lunch, making it perfect for diners wanting a less

formal dining experience. For dinner, the restaurant transforms into a ritzy steakhouse, offering a more intimate and upscale environment. You can indulge in a cocktail and shisha after dinner at one of the Southern Sun's lounges. The rooftop bar, Hytes (which sits on the 27th floor rooftop), offers cocktails with a view! Diners are treated to insane views of the skyline and waterfront of the corniche while sipping the night away. Those wanting to relax and smoke shisha can head down to the terrace level lounge, Balcon.

The Southern Sun hotel is conveniently located near the scenic corniche. This puts guests in close proximity to several attractions, many of them in walking distance. Abu Dhabi Beach, Al Sahil Beach, Family Park, Abu Dhabi Mall, and the Al Mina Fish



Market are
a short walk
or taxi cab
ride from the
property. Other

www.tsogosunhotels.com
Southern Sun Abu Dhabi Hotel
Al Mina Street Tourist Club Area - يبظ ويا
United Arab Emirates
+971 2 818 4888

attractions in the area, such as Yas Island, Ferrari World, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque are a bit further out, but easily reached via taxi service.

The draw of this hotel is most certainly its commitment to service. From the moment you walk through the doors, you are treated to attentive and personalized experience from the staff. Everyone from housekeeping to room service knows your name and address you by it. Leave your shoes and souvenirs scattered on your way out the door? They are re-organized by the time you return. Ordered two extra towels last night? They re-stock your bathroom with those extra two towels the next night, without you requesting them. Personalized service is the name of the game at the Southern Sun.





UNDER THE *Veil* IN THE UAE

Words by **Michelle Lowe**

In a land of contrasts between desert and city, antiquity amongst modernity, I discovered enormous beauty and vibrancy. Although I was only there for five days it was enough time to get a taste of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). I was fortunate to experience both Abu Dhabi and Dubai and would liken them as Abu Dhabi the older sister, full of culture slightly demure yet still city, while Dubai the younger sister, full of excitement, vivacious and abundant in choices.

We arrived at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club to attend the Ladies Who Lunch bi-annual event www.ladieswholunchuk.com, which is located on the grounds of the Westin Hotel, with an impeccable golf course and a perfect place to host a wedding shower or wedding party.

The Traders Hotel, <http://www.shangri-la.com/abudhabi/traders/> part of the Qaryat Al Beri complex is a beach side property located on the Persian Gulf, next door to





the Shangri La hotel and Souk and faces the Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi. The lobby is bright, airy and colorful. The front desk staff is polite and helpful. I upgraded to the club level with a lovely superior room and great sea view. The club lounge presents tasty light fare, wine and beer. Their beach terrace comes alive at night with alluring lighting and a backdrop of enticing cabanas.

Not to be missed is the luxurious Emirates Palace, be sure to book a table in order to not be refused entry along with a safari desert tour. The jewel of Abu Dhabi is the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, a great homage to Islamic architecture. Women are expected to wear an abaya and men must wear long pants and no shoes in the mosque. If you are inappropriately dressed, the correct attire will be provided. The mosque is resplendent in beauty and a pure reflection of Islamic culture. Although a symbol of religion, a wave of respectful serenity exudes from this masterpiece.



Hello Dubai, with an enviable skyline. The Ritz-Carlton International Financial Center's one-bedroom apartment set in the residences was outstanding. <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Dubailfc/Default.htm>

My favorite restaurants are Cara for breakfast and lunch and the indoor and outdoor Terrace Number 5, which hosts a ladies Sushi night on Wednesdays. The decadent five star spa and the rooftop swimming pool are excellent features for this city hotel. The Ritz-Carlton does not disappoint!

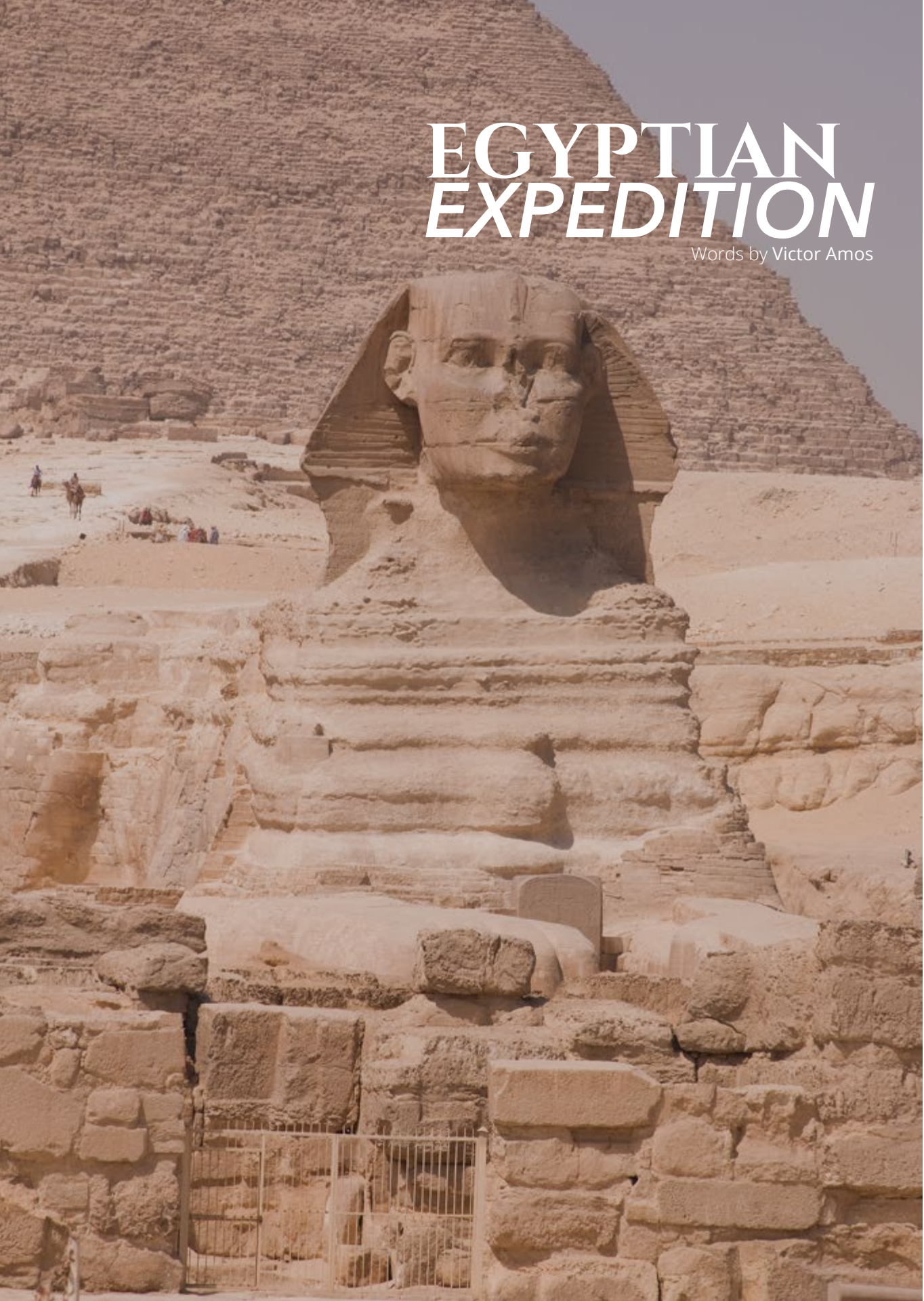
Dubai has a hot nightlife, Tuesday night is ladies night, my favorite is Armani Prive located in the Burj Khalifa the tallest building in the world. With all the appointments; glamour, size and glitz, with a huge screen and a fun DJ pumping out the hottest dance music.

Both the Emirates and Dubai malls are vast and seemingly never ending. Anything you ever wanted is available - from endless shopping, fine dining, clothing, department stores, movies and even an Aquarium in the Dubai mall.

Dubai's infrastructure is impressive, with a public transportation system that is affordable and efficient. You may be in the desert but with all of the first class amenities, impressive technology and an expensive price tag to go with it you recognize that this is probably luxury at its best!

EGYPTIAN *EXPEDITION*

Words by Victor Amos



Tourism in Egypt is about diversity. From its ancient landmarks, to its remarkably picturesque beaches, you can find any and every activity imaginable. Caught in the cross-hairs of turmoil after revolutionary government reform, the country is recovering, and has renewed its commitment to the tourists that keep this vibrant ecosystem of hotels, restaurants, museums, and cultural sites alive.

There is no right or wrong way to experience Egypt. One can indulge in the long and rich history of temples, burial grounds, forts, and mummies by day, then hop a quick flight to the Sinai Peninsula for drinks on the beach by night. The narrow alleys that radiate like arteries inside the heart of Old Cairo flow with music and food and shopping, while the shore of the Red Sea ebbs and flows with a calmer energy. Diversity: It's at the heart of Egyptian tourism.

Couples looking to get their fill of sun and cultural substance will have no shortage of options to consider. The treasures of the ancient world are surrounded by numerous luxury accommodations and restaurants. Egypt does an exceptional job of blurring the line between old and new, treating visitors that seek the ambiance of antiquity, but the convenience of modern amenities, to a seamless experience.

Exploring the land of the pharaohs has never been more affordable and more pleasurable than right now. The security is tight, the lines are short, and the locals are eager to welcome you. If making the journey is on your radar, here are a few guiding lights to help you navigate the possibilities.

CAIRO

Where To Stay:
SEMIRAMIS INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

Situated on the banks of the Nile River, the InterContinental gives you a breathtaking view of the bustling, cosmopolitan core of Cairo. You are steps away from the Egyptian Museum, Tahrir Square, and Nile River feluccas. The rooms are spacious and offer all the modern amenities a savvy traveler would require.

What To See:
The Egyptian Museum is a national treasure not to be missed, if not for the King Tut exhibit alone. Cruising down the Nile River in a traditional felucca is a great way to get your sea legs while taking in the sights. The walled streets of Old Cairo are a shopping mecca. You can find all of the souvenirs, clothing, and food your heart desires!

GIZA

Where To Stay:
MENA HOUSE HOTEL

The Mena House is a palatial hotel located in the shadows of the Giza Necropolis. Its luxuriously appointed estate is not only surrounded by the pyramids, but also by 40 acres of winding green gardens. Their plethora of on-campus restaurants round-out the royal offerings you'll find here.

What To See:
Being only a short drive from Cairo, missing the wonders of Giza is not an option! You can see the last remaining Wonders of the Ancient World at the Giza Necropolis. The pyramids, sphinx, and burial grounds all await you at this historical treasure trove.

LUXOR

Where To Stay:
HILTON LUXOR RESORT & SPA

This property, overlooking the Nile River, is the epitome of modern elegance. The minimalist architectural compound features 2 infinity pools, a multi-tier sunbathing deck, 8 bars & restaurants, and a luxury spa.

What To See:
While the Temple of Karnak is fabulous during the day, it is even more spectacular at night. The nightly light and sound show transforms the stone temple into a time portal, complete with projections and an audio recounting of the temple's history. Luxor is teeming with other historical sites, such as the Valley of the Kings, Luxor Temple, and other numerous West Bank archaeological grounds.

SHARM EL SHEIKH

Where To Stay:
FOUR SEASONS RESORT

This is one of the most spectacular hotels one can visit in the Middle East. The terraced villas cascade down to the shores of the Red Sea, where a beach, water sports, and even snorkeling await you! The sprawling property also offers several restaurants and a full-service spa, which makes escaping reality simple.

What To See:
Sharm El Sheikh is all about the beach. While there are traditional tourist traps like shopping malls in the area, I recommend spending your time exploring the world-class snorkeling and sailing the region is famous for. Also consider venturing to a Bedouin camp for dinner, belly dancing, and even a camel ride!

THE BRIDE SHOW

DUBAI



An interview with

SUZY PALLETT

Exhibition Director, BRIDE, Dubai

Thankfully Suzy managed to take some time out of her busy schedule to talk to us about what it's like being responsible for the longest running show in the Middle East. Suzy's passion shines through and we love it.

How long has this show been running?

The BRIDE portfolio will be celebrating its 19th year in 2016, making it the longest standing show of its kind in the Middle East region.

What inspired you to build this production?

We want to ensure that BRIDE as a brand in itself resonates with quality and meeting the needs of brides-to-be as well as the industry. BRIDE was created long before my time at Informa Exhibitions, organisers of the event, and this is my first year as Exhibition Director but as with any brand cycle there comes a time where you have to make a change in order to service an ever changing market, fortunately with the history of BRIDE comes experience, and a sense of credibility.

BRIDE historically has been an exhibition, but from hereon it will be an event. By that we mean that it will no longer just serve as a platform for retailers to meet consumers, but instead evolve as an experience that can service the industry yearlong through engaging communication platforms. We are creating an ever expanding resource of knowledge for brides to be, whilst the event itself becomes an indulgent day out and one where females can spoil themselves in the plethora of brands, icons and experiences.

How do you go about selecting the vendors?

The fact that BRIDE has been running for 19 years means that we have some exhibitors that have been with us for a very long time. The strength of the brand brings them back every year which is testament in itself - without them we wouldn't have a show!

What we are incorporating into our strategy moving forward is creating a platform for the smaller companies to come and show off their wares to a large number of brides-to-be. For exhibitors there is a huge differentiation from previous years. Exhibitors become partners to the event, and the strategy around our communications plan enables us to shout about and promote the exhibitors throughout the year. This not just gives them a greater ROI but enables them to push varying product ranges at suitable times of the year. For example we can work with a makeup brand and promote their summer shades and seasonal party wear which culminates in bridal.

What is the average bride that attends these shows?

The show attracts brides from all walks of life. We are fortunate that we have a strong database of females engaged with BRIDE either as previous visitors who are now brides themselves or new brides-to-be. We are unprecedented in this sense that we can retain a loyal customer base but annually attract an additional targeted audience - the event will become a part of each brides-to-be planning and an indulgent yet slightly nostalgic day out for those that are brides already.

How diverse is your show?

BRIDE is as diverse as the audiences of brides-to-be are. We are in a global region that services a range of nationalities with varying cultural differences from dresses to ceremonies. Each bride has a specific budget - what BRIDE does is create a story for each of those brides, we provide a platform that enables each bride to access their aspirations, no matter the budget or heritage.

BRIDE has reacted to a demand from future brides in the region by becoming an ongoing interactive platform that can talk to brides to be at any point within the year, not just the event days. We have reimagined our website, employed an in-house, full time digital team and have started to communicate to an eager audience.

BRIDE can now liken itself to a heavyweight magazine, full of content, celebrities, tips and industry news that spoil our female audience by culminating in a full on sensory event where the 'magazine' of BRIDE comes to life and females can touch, feel and experience the content for themselves.

How effective do you find the bridal show for couples planning their wedding?

Very effective. We make sure that a couple who visits the show has everything they need under one roof. Wedding dress designers, honeymoon destinations, photographers, make-up artists, the list goes on. Also, this year we have clearly defined the different sectors meaning visitors can make the most of their time while at the show, and even plan their route before walking through the door.

The fashion segment that is produced, how do you go about selecting the designers that show their work?

Within the fashion shows we have to inspire the audience, our careful selection of designers is based on a number of aspects, we select designers that range in budget, range in style and can create an evocative show that inspires an audience.

The beauty team that is selected are they artists trained to do weddings?

We like to work with brands and people that are not only the best but are also accessible to our brides-to-be. We aim to work with people who have first-hand experience on what it means to create the finishing styles and touches to a bride on her wedding day. That way we know we are creating realistic looks for visitors to take inspiration from.

What can we expect for 2016?

2016 will set a benchmark for large scale consumer shows in the UAE. BRIDE will be the event to talk about how to create intimacy, great content, quality and growth in a large scale exhibition. The brand will develop through its content, through its outreach to

consumers on a daily basis leading up to, and during, the show and through its reactivity to demands within the industry.

The events for 2016 have an unprecedented energy, through the fashion shows, entertainment and indulgent pampering zones, all provided to make this a completely immersive experience for the visitors and a hugely exciting part of their planning. Also, for the first time ever we are having interactive mood boards, pop up couture and VIP rooms nobody will want to leave!

BRIDE doesn't have ambitions to grow considerably in floor space because we don't want to dilute the intimacy for each bride-to-be. The development will be in becoming a platform for brands to grow into the market, an opportunity for icons to access their followers, a nostalgic must have memory for every visiting bride to have when they think back on planning their big day. We are also in the early stages of research on geocloning BRIDE into relevant markets, enabling the brand to grow and develop whilst giving the industry a wider audience.

Can international vendors join the show? What is the process?

Absolutely, we host exhibitors from across the globe! The average Middle East consumer has extensive knowledge with regard to global brands, so we try to bring wedding gowns from the UK, Italy and Lebanon, as well as locally within the region.

The beauty of BRIDE is that it brings together international brands and consumers in a hugely exciting and interactive experience. With companies being able to work globally through events like BRIDE, and ensuring brides-to-be are inundated with global influences, our aim is to make aspirations accessible and bring the wedding industry world to the Middle East.



Beauty

Brides By Sonia Castleberry
www.bridesbysoniacastleberry.com

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Philadelphia, PA 19127 - (215) 482.7465

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Mark Ingram Salon - The Park 55 Building, 110
East 55th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022,
212.319.6778

Bridal Reflections - 260 Fifth Avenue | New York,
NY 10001, 212-764-3040

Vera Wang Bride - 991 Madison Avenue New
York, NY- 212.628-3400

Amsale New York - 625 Madison, New York City-
212 583-1700

Monique Lhuiller - 19 East 71st Street New
York, NY - 212-683-3332 moniquelhuillier.com

Romona Keveza Collection - One Rockefeller
Plaza -The Penthouse New York, NY

Stephen Yearick at Bridal Reflections Fifth Avenue
New York City - 212-764-3040

Kleinfeld - 110 West 20th Street, New York NY
10011

Wedding Atelier - 72 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016 - 646.638.3263 - www.
WeddingAtelier.com

Ines Di Santo - www.INESDISTANTO.COM

Jenny Yoo Collection - 132 West 36th St. 9th Floor
New York - 212.645.0823 - WWW.JENNYOO.COM

Burnbaum & Bullock Bridal Salon - 151 West 25th
Street Suite 6A - New York NY 10001 - www.
burnbaumandbullock.com - 212-242-2914

Sarah Seven - 180 Lafayette Street 5th Floor New
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Chatham, NJ 07928 www.lfay.com

BELLA Bridesmaids - 545 eighth avenue suite
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Tiffany's - www.tiffany.com

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www.DonnaDistefanoLtd.com

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Avenue - linksoflondon.com

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800.289.3462 - michaelcfina.com

Jung Lee - 25 West 29th Street New York City -
212-257-5655 - JungLeeNY.com

ForeverMark - FOREVERMARK.COM

David Alan Jewelry - 212-382-1410 - www.
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Taking Tea Instyle - www.takingteainstyle.com

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weylinbseymours.com

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Jersey City, NJ 07305 -201.413.0050 - www.
Maritimeparc.com

Tara Guerard - 54 Chapel Street Charleston, Sc
29403 - 843.577.5006 TaraGuerard.com

James Abel Events - 917.399.4552 - www.
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Oheka Castle Hotel & Estate - 135 West Gate Drive
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com

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RainbowRoom.com

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