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KENTUCKY BRIDE

SUMMER 2012



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About the Cover

The simplicity of this pink peony bouquet is timeless. For more show stopping photos of Jill and Andy's wedding, kindly head over to page 84.

Photo: **Aesthetiica Photography**

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In This Issue ...



It's Hot – Hot – Hot in Kentucky!!! When it's hot outside, all I can think about is where is my next trip going to be? Which in turn, got us thinking, "Where would be the most exotic honeymoon location?" "How could you bring the world to your Kentucky reception?" "Are there any Kentucky couples who have had Destination Weddings?" and the list continued.

In this issue, you will see Real Kentucky Brides who took the plunge away from home {page 30}; you will learn about ways to incorporate three different destinations and cultures into your wedding {page 35}, you will view amazing Dream Dresses {page 52} and you will also be able to get a glimpse into six simply lovely Real Kentucky Weddings {page 61}.

So, grab yourself a glass of sweet tea, your sunglasses and go sit on your front porch to soak up every inch of these gorgeous and educational pages. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did creating it for you!

jaimee



We love feedback! Send me an e-mail at jaimeson@jackiallen.com and let's talk about your thoughts on the magazine, and any suggestions for future issues.

Contributors



Colin Cowie

Colin Cowie, of Colin Cowie Weddings: Respected around the work as an arbiter of style, Colin Cowie is widely known for throwing the most spectacular weddings and events across the globe. See his interview on page 26.



Misty Gonzalez

Misty Gonzalez, Kentucky Bride Magazine: Misty is the newest member of our team and will be writing regularly for the magazine as well as our blog. Read her Travel Tips on page 46 and other articles throughout this issue.



Stuart Hurt

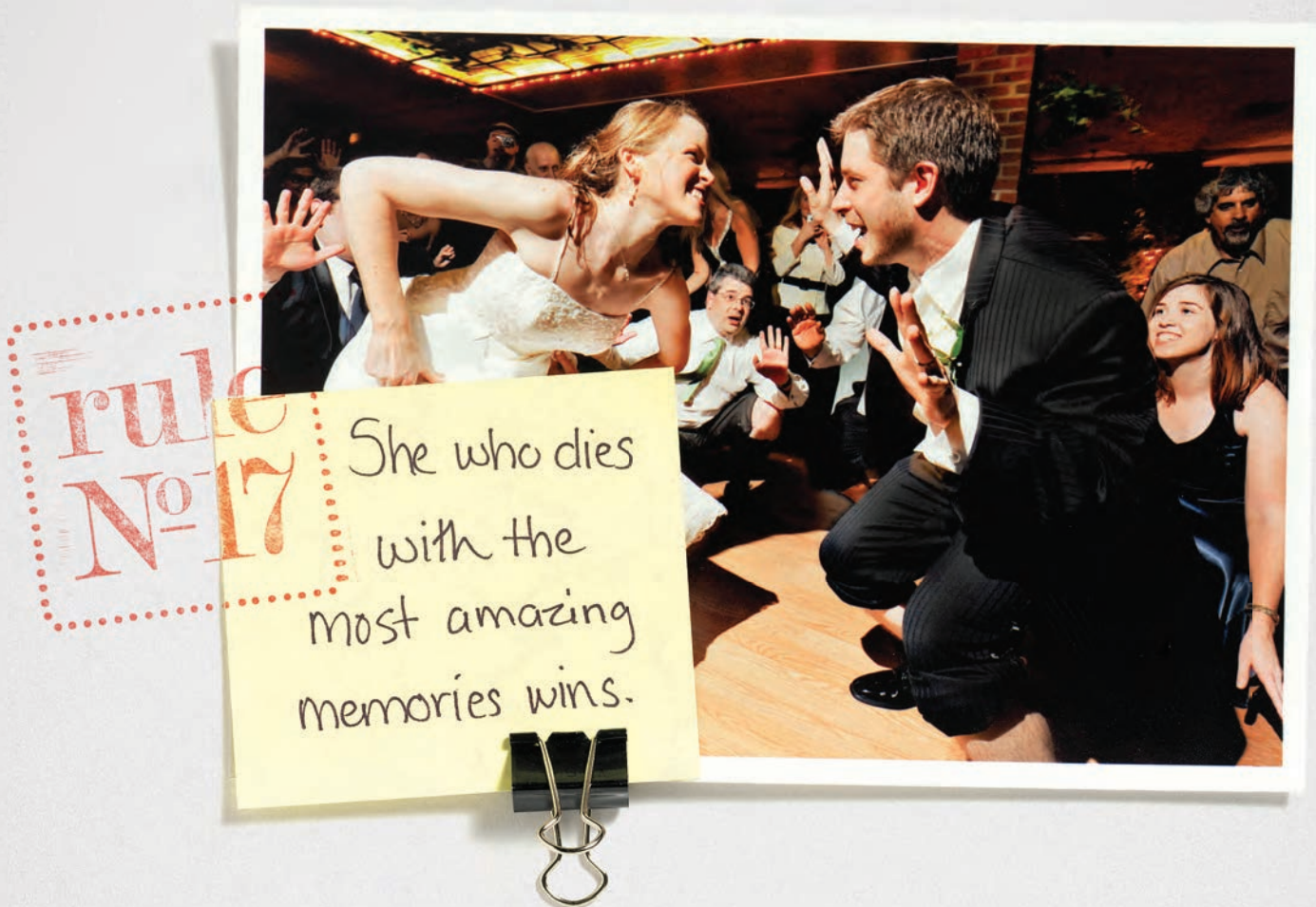
Stuart Hurt, house by JSD Designs: Stuart received his Certified Interior Designer licenses in 2006 being among the first in the Commonwealth to be awarded. Stuart lends a hand on choosing the right color for your new home together on page 108.



Meredith Lane

Meredith Lane, Milestone Realty Consultants: Meredith specializes in representing first-time homebuyers. To see if you should consider home buying before you walk down the aisle, read her article on page 105.

happiness rules.



Your most treasured pieces of jewelry mark life's most cherished moments and memories. Perhaps none more so than your engagement ring. Insure it with the jewelry insurance experts. And enjoy a lifetime of happiness together.

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Ask Jacki

Q: Hi! My wedding is right around the corner, and welcome bags for my overnight guests almost slipped my mind. Do you think this is something I have to do? And what items do you suggest I include?

A: Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Pretty exciting time, isn't it? First off, there is nothing you "have" to do for your wedding. This is a celebration of your journey as a couple, and the details of the day are up to you.

Do I think it's a nice gesture for brides to show their wedding guests who are traveling to join in their celebration some southern hospitality by saying, "We're so glad you're celebrating with us?" Of course! I love genuine, simple expressions of gratitude, and those guests who are traveling will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

There are several items to consider when putting together your welcome bag.

Decide on a **budget**. How much can you spend? Welcome bags can typically cost between \$5 - \$50 each, depending upon the items you include, and your container.

Then, decide on your **products, goodies and information**. I would definitely suggest that you include some bottled water. This can be off-the-shelf bottled water, or you can customize the bottles with your monogram on the label or a sweet welcoming thought from you and your fiancé, etc. A favorite in central Kentucky is also including Ale-8-1's in the bag. Most people outside Kentucky have never experienced

tasting an Ale-8-1 (bottled in Winchester) and it's always a fun inclusion. Other beverage options include:

If your celebration is taking place at a winery, you can always include a bottle of wine in the bag, or a wine opener from the winery.

Guests visiting Kentucky always appreciate a sample of our wonderful bourbon, whether it be the beverage itself, or something that includes it like a barbecue sauce, bourbon balls, etc.

And some edibles are always appreciated in a hotel room. Crackers, popcorn, trail mix, etc. are all good options. Blue Monday candy bars (made in Mt. Sterling by Ruth Hunt Candy) can be a delicious addition. Add some of your local favorites. And, if you need suggestions, go to www.atasteofkentucky.com and www.kentuckyproudmarket.com for local treats.





If your budget allows, you could always include some sunscreen if your ceremony and reception will be taking place outdoors, a local lip balm product, or a candle from a local artisan.

Be sure to visit your area's Visitor Center and include some maps of the area and some information on the local sights and tours. And, it's always fun to include some personal recommendations from you and your fiancé of your favorite restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, shops and places to see. (An example is the map above from MEllen Designs.)

Considering your budget and the number of items you want to include, now you need to decide on a **container**. 8x10 colored Kraft paper bags are popular, and with the handles, easy for your guests to carry to their rooms. You can get these at your local party store. Market trays with slots for carrying are fun containers. Some brides have used small farm bushel baskets and one bride we worked with used a local Farmer's Market tote.

Personalize your welcome bag as much as possible. Customize a round label on front welcoming your guests. If there are weekend activities, a weekend itinerary is always helpful. And don't forget to inform the hotel staff of your guests' itinerary ... they can be very helpful in case your guests need help with directions, etc.

If only you could greet every one of your guests as they arrive in town ... but creating a welcome bag filled with personally thought-out special items just for them will make them feel right at home as soon as they get in their room! KB

jacki

Jacki Allen is the founder of Kentucky Bride Ltd. and a partner in jacki & jameson, Wedding and Event Planning.



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Swanky-Flanky



'Things We Keep' was the theme behind Rachel Wile's wedding, owner of Benign Objects. Wanting everything to have a treasured feel, something cozy and warm that inspires memories was her goal, and fabric was the common bond. With her most popular item, the printed handkerchiefs are perfect wedding invitations, Save the Dates, bridal shower or baby shower invitations. They can also be a creative way to ask your friends to be your maids. The vintage-style, 100% cotton hankies are personalized and tailored to your text. The handkerchiefs come in four styles and can be sent with a bellyband and reply card. BenignObjects.com.



One Hundred Years of Bridal Fashion

Today's Bride wants a wedding dress that expresses her personal style while also reflecting a rich tradition. Nothing achieves that goal as gracefully as a vintage or replica wedding gown. *Vintage Weddings* will take you on a dazzling tour of the past one hundred years of bridal fashion, detailing the periods, styles, iconic designers, noteworthy ceremonies, cultural influences, and key looks. As a finishing touch to the inspiring and beautiful volume, it will conclude with glossaries on lace and fabrics, and a shopping guide for vintage wedding dresses and accessories. Available at Barnes & Noble and Joseph-Beth.

In Living Color

Carla Terwilleger, also known in the art world as "Twiggy," a home-grown Kentucky girl, is dressing up your walls. Twiggy is best known for her voluptuous femme fatales, which would be great for your bridesmaids. For the love of good taste, forgo the predictable photo frame and surprise your girls with their own Twiggy Original, painted in their likeness. It's the chic and artful way to show your appreciation. Then, why not have a Twiggy Original of you and your hubs as well. This is your day, and you deserve to be preserved in paint and sparkles. Instead of a blown-up engagement photo near the cake or guest book, WOW your guests with a custom piece of art. TwiggyOriginals.com or [Facebook.com/Twiggy.Originals](https://www.facebook.com/Twiggy.Originals), where she has her most recent work.



Show Your Spirit!

Do you love Kentucky? Do you love the environment? Do you love pretty jewelry? Well then, this Kris Nations necklace is just for you! Show your SPIRIT with this Kentucky Pride Necklace, which is cut from recycled sheets of metal. Available in sterling silver or 14kt gold filled chain. Pendant is approximately 1 inch square. KrisNations.com.



Mobile App for your Wedding Guests

Introducing Appy Couple to all of you tech savvy brides and grooms out there. This is not a wedding website, nor is it your wedding invitation ... this is your very own, customizable wedding app! Appy Couple will guide your guests through your wedding. They can use it to track information about pre-wedding events such as bridal showers, bachelorette parties; and on the actual wedding day, they can use the map to guide them to the correct venue and even post photos from their phone. This is not just for the bride and groom, this is mainly for the guests ... basically their mobile headquarters for your wedding and it is always with them since it can be downloaded to almost any smart phone! Hurry to get yours as they are offering this by Invitation only and Free until Fall 2012. AppyCouple.com.



Showcase your new Initials

Present your new initials with a beautiful couples monogram from *inscribed*, a Kentucky based company. Whether your wedding is elegant, casual, or whimsical, these custom monograms are a unique way to personalize your wedding. You can hang them at the entrance, place on walls, include in centerpieces, or use as cake toppers. The ideas are endless! They also make great bridesmaids' gifts. What a clever photo of the wedding party to have all the bridesmaids holding their monograms! Custom monograms are cut from Birch hardwood and are available in 18", 12" or 5" sizes in either Scripted or Block styles. The monograms are sold unfinished but can be painted for your special day. InscriptedMonograms.etsy.com. [KB](#)



Head-to-Toe

Whether you want to show your something blue with your earrings or necklace, or even if you want to keep it all to yourself - these blue pieces are sure to make you shine.

1. Game, Set, Match

Rocks & Jewels by Royal Asscher created these gorgeous "Desire" blue sapphire earrings and band, which are a perfect match. Set in 18kt white gold and made with pavé diamonds, these pieces are stunning. The Desire earring have detachable micro pavé diamond jackets. Though the beauty of these jewels may be blinding, Royal Asscher is not blind to the sacrifice that some make for beauty and refuses to work with conflict diamonds. Available at fine jewelers nationwide and RoyalAsscher.com.

2. Blue Bombshell

Who doesn't love fine handmade jewelry? With Elva Fields, you not only get a one of a kind piece, you get the history of the antique materials used; you get the uniqueness of the customization and you also get the timeless style of Emily Maynard, owner and designer. The Summertime Blues necklace is made of vintage glass rounds from India awash in the grin-inducing shade of cobalt blue. The graduated strands were so lovely on their own, that a simple vintage brass hook was the only necessary adornment at the back of the 18" necklace. While the Elva Fields studio is in Taylorsville, she sells internationally as well as in Kentucky, with one of the boutiques being Clodhoppers in Louisville. ElvaFields.com.



①



②

3. Stately Blue

Every little girl thinks of what her Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed and, of course, what her Something Blue is going to be on her wedding day. For some it might be a blue garter, or a blue necklace. Why not have it be a lovely ring to go on your right hand? This something blue ring is a 14kt White Gold Triple A Tanzanite Ring set against Colorless Russian Diamonds – simply stately. Available at Jewelry and Bridal in Elizabethtown. JewelryandBridalEtown.com.



4. Dance the Night Away

OKA b. is founded on the principle that fashion and comfort should never be mutually exclusive. A ballet flat given the thumbs up by your doctor and your best friend. A shoe that's eco-friendly, waterproof, and made in the USA. Don't want to flaunt your Something Blue, then keep it a secret on the inside with these elegant flats. Available at many Kentucky retail locations, such as Anne's Bridal in West Paducah. OKA-b.com.



5. Travel in Style

10% off with code KYBM

Trawick & Martin has created this stunning 3-piece Dupioni Silk Travel Set from the Joie de Vivre Couture collection. Perfect for organizing luggage content in an elegant way. The T&M House of Design has teamed up with artistic designer Marsha Tauber to create a lush line of fashionable accessories, featuring high-end French fabrics to celebrate the Joie de Vivre lifestyle. Inspired by the charm of the Bourgeoisie and the romance of French cinema, this luxurious handsewn set adds just the right touch of glamour. Joie De Vivre - Make life's special moments sparkle! Trawick & Martin is a Kentucky based luxury business selling internationally. Check out the full travel collection and more at TrawickandMartin.com. Enter code KYBM to receive a 10% discount off the total of your order. KB



It's All About the Kiss



Starting with your congratulatory hugs and kisses from family and friends on your engagement ... to the many kisses on the cheeks from your bridal showers ... to your wedding day with the ONE KISS that will seal the deal of you becoming a MRS. ... your lips need some special attention.



Red, Red Wine

BITE Cosmetics offers natural anti-aging beauty for lips that's good enough to eat! Red Wine Resveratrol is the health-boosting component found in red wine. Each Bite lipstick delivers the antioxidant equivalent of five glasses of red wine to restore and maintain youthful looking lips. The exceptionally smooth lipstick, that delivers lush, long-lasting color and moisture-rich coverage and organic fruit butters, creates a creamy texture that conditions and nourishes lips with every use. Available exclusively at Sephora.



Luxury in Color

IMAN Cosmetics Collection of Luxury Lip Stain is enriched with vitamins and moisturizers to protect and nourish while the subtle color creates a natural sheer-tinted finish. Smooth, creamy semi-sheer lip color for a soft, easy alternative to fuller coverage lipstick. This lipstick simply glides on for superb performance. Available at Target, Ulta and Walgreens.



Double Trouble

Cover Girl BlastFlipstick puts the power of personalization in your hands by doubling the lip color and multiplying the shade power. Blending different lip colors is a beauty secret commonly used by professional makeup artists to create perfect, personalized looks for their clients. Now, customizable color is at your fingertips. Glide on the creamy end of the stick, applying layers as desired. Then, use the shimmery end of the stick to finish the look, sweeping on layers to blend or highlight to perfection. Available at Target, Walgreens and Walmart.



Simply Marvelous

bareMinerals wants you to unleash your inner Moxie with a fabulously full, pillowy pout. This luscious lipgloss delivers sheer, vivid color and a shiny mirror-like finish that lasts for hours. Infused with natural ingredients, exotic oils, botanical extracts, and antioxidants, the refreshing formula smoothes and hydrates lips for superior comfort. Available at Bare Escentuals Boutiques, Sephora, Ulta, Macy's, Dillard's and Nordstrom.



Box of Girly Goodies

When Nonnie Waller's Traditional Southern created the "Diva," they had you and your maids in mind. Fill with lipsticks, makeup brushes and other girly goodies like jewelry or six Southern Sized Truffles, molded chocolates ... or combine all of them! This Diva makes for an unforgettable and reusable gift. Measuring 9 inches long, this box will fit into most bags and be the perfect accessory that is for your lips only. Choose from an existing array of luscious fabrics and colors, with only a minimum order of 10. Available exclusively through NonnieWaller.com. [KB](#)

What's in Your Pockets?

The Groom's attire is just as important as the Bride's ... after all, you will be her arm candy for the day! We want to make sure that you are taken care of in every way, right down to what's in your pockets. From your initials to the time of day, we have you looking stylish and manly.



HANDMADE, FUNCTIONAL AND ELEGANT POCKET KNIFE

Pocket knives by William Henry Studios are distinctive heirloom-quality testaments to the art of knifemaking. Each piece takes more than seven months to produce, and incorporates the work of more than 30 artisans across 800 individual operations. The blade and frame of the limited-edition "Magma" are hand-forged of Damascus stainless steel infused with beautiful layers of copper. Adorning the handle are inset scales of fossilized woolly mammoth bone, with orange citrine gemstones on the button lock release. Available exclusively from St. John & Myers of Lexington.



BLACK DIAL SKELETON POCKET WATCH

There are many ways to keep time, but none are quite as stylish and unique as a pocket watch. This one is as classic as it gets, with a black skeleton face that displays the watch's interior, an antiqued brushed silver case and a silver curb chain. A very memorable gift on its own, but personalize it for your groomsmen and it becomes truly timeless. This and other pocket watches are available in more than 10 Kentucky store locations or online at ThingsRemembered.com.



PERSONALIZED MEN'S HANDKERCHIEF SET

While there is a saying that you shouldn't gift handkerchiefs to another man, there is nothing that says you shouldn't have one (or 3) for yourself. Crafted of 100% cotton and easily washable, these classically designed handkerchiefs feature a handsome, vertical and horizontal line trim, which creates a cross hatch look in all four corners, and come with free personalization. Available at TheManRegistry.com.



A TAILORED STITCH

Whether you are wearing a cummerbund and bowtie, or a suit and tie, there are definitely ways to personalize the attire for yourself and your best men. If you are wearing a tux, then why not add your three initials on the bottom edge to one side. A sharp, clean look for any style, we recommend putting your initials on the shirt cuff. Our absolute favorite place to embroider or hand stitch is the inside pocket for that lasting impression. All of these ideas can be done through your local embroidery store or seamstress. Simply ask them to embroider or hand stitch your wedding date, initials, favorite verse or memory so you will remember this day and the way you felt. [KB](#)

Sippin' on Some Sweet Tea

Any respectable Southern lady knows that on a hot day, all you need is your front porch, a rocking chair and a glass of ice cold Sweet Tea – it is the American way. Like America itself, American Harvest was built on a promise. From field to bottle, a promise to create the finest quality product, without compromise to the environment or our nation's natural resources. American Harvest is proudly handcrafted in small batches from organic American winter wheat, certified organic ingredients and water from deep beneath the Snake River Plain, yielding a distinctly smooth and silky spirit with a crisp, clean taste. One Nation. One Spirit. One Kentucky. Sold in over 140 Kentucky Spirit Stores. [KE](#)

Southern Belle

Ingredients

- 2 parts American Harvest
- 3 parts Sweet Iced Tea

Methodology

In a tall glass combine American Harvest and sweet iced tea. Garnish with a lemon wheel.



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In Touch



With his experiential approach to design; what you smell, touch, taste, feel and hear are carefully orchestrated to create the ultimate experience for his clients.

by Jacki Allen

Imagine receiving an invitation to join Colin Cowie in Mexico for the unveiling and launch of the Colin Cowie Wedding Collection available exclusively at all Palace Resorts in Mexico and the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotels in Punta Cana, Vallarta, Cancun and Riviera Maya! During our time at the Moon Palace Resort in Riviera Maya, I had the honor to sit down with Colin and ask him a few questions for you lovely Kentucky brides-to-be.

KB: Why now? Why Mexico?

CC: I'll start with the last question: Why Mexico? I love the Mexican people and I love the Mexican culture. You get great food and great service: two of the most important things of the wedding. What I've found here is an incredible ability and want to serve. It allows you to be set up for success at any level.

Why now? I've spent the last twenty years creating weddings for the world's elite and this was an opportunity to share what I do with a much broader audience. Having just launched ColinCowieWeddings.com, it makes complete sense to use this as another tool to spread the message and the idea that you don't have to spend a fortune to have a stylish wedding today.

KB: What makes the Colin Cowie Wedding Collection different?

CC: We listen to the bride very carefully. I have a division of my company, three people, just dedicated to finding out what the bride wants, what she doesn't want. We study her patterns. We really have taken the bride and put her right in the epicenter of our universe and it's all about her. Five years ago she wanted a formula; she wanted to be told what to do. And I think now because of the internet and also because of the downturn in the economy, she's also forced to be a little more creative. And in the process, she's also educated herself. She also wants to make her own decisions. It's not my wedding. It's the bride's wedding and we need to take into consideration that this is a once-in-a-lifetime event for her. And she wants to be able to customize it. And she wants



to be able to make some of her own choices. We give her the ability to switch out certain fabrics and make substitutions with flowers. We listen to her.

KB: Speaking of being more innovative and creative, what are your favorite trends right now?

CC: The destination wedding is still the biggest trend. When you think about it, [you can] come to Mexico in the middle of winter and bring 100 of your favorite, or 40 of your closest, and have a great blowout for 72 hours! The idea of having a wedding at a destination, all-inclusive resort is such a smart idea. It allows you to really make a great experience for your guests. You know they're going to eat great food and the accommodations are taken care of.

KB: Are there any new trends in terms of the ceremony?

CC: One of our big trends we're starting to see, especially with evening ceremonies, is bringing in all elements of fire. I love this idea. One of the rituals we will do is the bride and groom light a unity candle together. Bridesmaids, groomsmen and guests hold a little candle with a leaf around it. Then every one of their candles is lit from the bride and groom's candle,

and the flame gets passed through the congregation. And you hold the candle in your hand while the couple repeats their vows. It's collective spiritual energy. Isn't that beautiful?

I also like the idea of the serpentine aisle, which I think is kind of fun. It's a little bit more whimsical.

KB: What are some other tips for creating the very best wedding day possible?





CC: First of all, I never use the word perfect. I don't believe in perfect at all. I leave that to my counterparts. It takes too much time to get there and it's kind of boring. I think there is great charm in embracing a few imperfections along the way. Something is going to go wrong because it's just the nature of the business. A flower might not come in or something might happen late. Let's not lose sight that it is a wedding. It's your opportunity to express to your family and friends who you are. It's an opportunity to make a statement of style. This is who we were individually; this is who we are together. So, I always direct my couples not to lose sight of that during their planning process.

KB: Are there ever any rules you like to follow when planning a wedding?

CC: I get asked this a lot; I always say, "Never a rule in a wedding." My only rule is that good taste should always prevail. As long as you're not offending someone, by all means go ahead and embrace your idea. Walk down the aisle in a lime green wedding dress with your border terrier on a floral leash to Billy Idol's *White Wedding*.

You don't have to spend a fortune
to have a stylish wedding today.

KB: Is there one word that sums up the Colin Cowie Wedding Collection?

CC: Fabulous! ^{KB}

Colin Cowie is a respected around the world as an arbiter of style and is widely known for throwing the most spectacular celebrations across the globe. He is an authority on living with style; an author of 8 books, a celebrated television personality and a world-renown event designer. Photos from the Colin Cowie Wedding Collection at Palace Resorts and Hard Rock Resorts, Mexico. More information available at Wedding.PalaceResorts.com.



Flowers that
tell your story.

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A young boy with short brown hair and blue eyes is smiling at the camera. He is wearing a blue and white vertically striped short-sleeved button-down shirt with a dark red rose boutonniere on the left lapel, and khaki pants with a black belt. He is holding a black signpost that supports a large, circular sign with a green border and a white interior. The sign contains the title of the article in a green cursive font, flanked by decorative flourishes. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with a blue sky and warm-toned buildings.

*Where in the World
are Kentucky Couples
getting Married?*

by Jacki Allen



Florida's Emerald Coast

Joy & Justin Spencer

November 15, 2011

Henderson Park Inn Bed & Breakfast; Destin, Florida

When Justin and I met, I knew it was something special. We began dating and enjoying spending all the time we could get together. We grew closer and closer and fell in love. We enjoyed visiting historic downtown Madison, Indiana, walking around and visiting the local shops. On September 20, 2011 Justin had decided he wanted to go to Madison again for the day. I honestly didn't want to go and wasn't in a very good mood. Little did I know that he had planned that day to propose! We stopped for coffee and walked to this amazing fountain downtown and sat on a bench to rest. When he hit his knee I was in total shock! I had no idea it was coming and was so excited! After saying "YES!" and him putting the ring on my finger, I began to smile uncontrollably. But then he reached for my hand and began to take the ring off! "What is going on?" I was thinking! He ended up telling me that if I said yes to this fake ring that he knew I would say yes to this real one! I about had a heart attack thinking this was a horrible joke! The day ended so much better than it had started and I was so happy I didn't ruin it!



Let the planning begin! Justin and I had both been married before so we knew we wanted something small and intimate. I left the following week to go on vacation with my family and ended up falling in love with Henderson Park Inn Bed and Breakfast which is next door to the condo we stayed at in Destin, Florida. I watched a wedding take place from the balcony while I was there that week and knew this was the place. I called Justin to see what he thought, and he was completely on board and thought it was a perfect idea. We didn't waste any time and ended up getting married on the beach at sunset on November 15, 2011. Finding a photographer to capture the romance of the day was very important to me since I myself am a professional photographer. His 5 year old son (seen on page 30) was able to be there and be a part of the ceremony which just made it complete. Our personally written vows made the moment amazing. Destination weddings are the way to go!



West Baden

Leah & Nolan DeVaughn
January 14, 2012

West Baden Springs Hotel at French Lick Resort

In March of 2008, Nolan was part of a wedding party with Leah's college roommate, and she thought the two of them should meet. A few weeks later Leah, Nolan, Megan and Mark decided to go on a double date. After a dinner at Belle Notte, a few rousing games of bowling, and an 80's dance party at the Dame in downtown Lexington, the rest was history. Leah and Nolan have been together ever since.

In December of 2010, Leah and Nolan decided to take a trip to New York City around Christmas time rather than buying each other presents. Leah was very hopeful that Nolan might be bringing something sparkly with him, but tried not to get her hopes up too much! They spent the whole first day visiting all the sights around the city and decided the best way to end the day would be to go to the top of the Rockefeller Building and see the city all lit up at night. After leading Leah to the very top of the building, Nolan got

down on one knee and asked her to make their trip to New York perfect. She of course said yes!!

Leah has some family who lives in a small town in Indiana near West Baden, and they had visited West Baden Springs Hotel during a family wedding in the nearby town. Even before the engagement, Leah and Nolan had talked about how beautiful it would be to get married there. After getting engaged, Leah had her heart set on the beautiful and elegant venue of West Baden. Leah and Nolan wanted to have a smaller wedding and felt that getting married out of town was the best way to keep numbers a little smaller. Only 2.5 hours from Lexington, West Baden was perfect as it was close enough for guests to get there, yet far enough away to feel like a destination wedding. Having decided on a January wedding date (the same day of Nolan's parents' 40th anniversary), West Baden provided the perfect indoor venue that allowed their guests to spend the whole weekend celebrating with the couple.

The wedding day was everything Leah and Nolan hoped for. They were married in front of the fireplace in West Baden's breathtaking Atrium surrounded by family and friends. After a cocktail hour and delicious seated dinner, Leah, Nolan and their guests danced from the minute the band started playing until a send-off complete with *On, On U of K* and blue & white pompoms.

South Africa

Mariska & Billy Frey
March 8, 2011
*Botlierskop Private Game Reserve
George, South Africa*

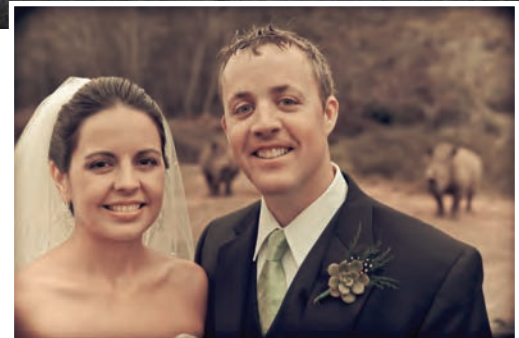
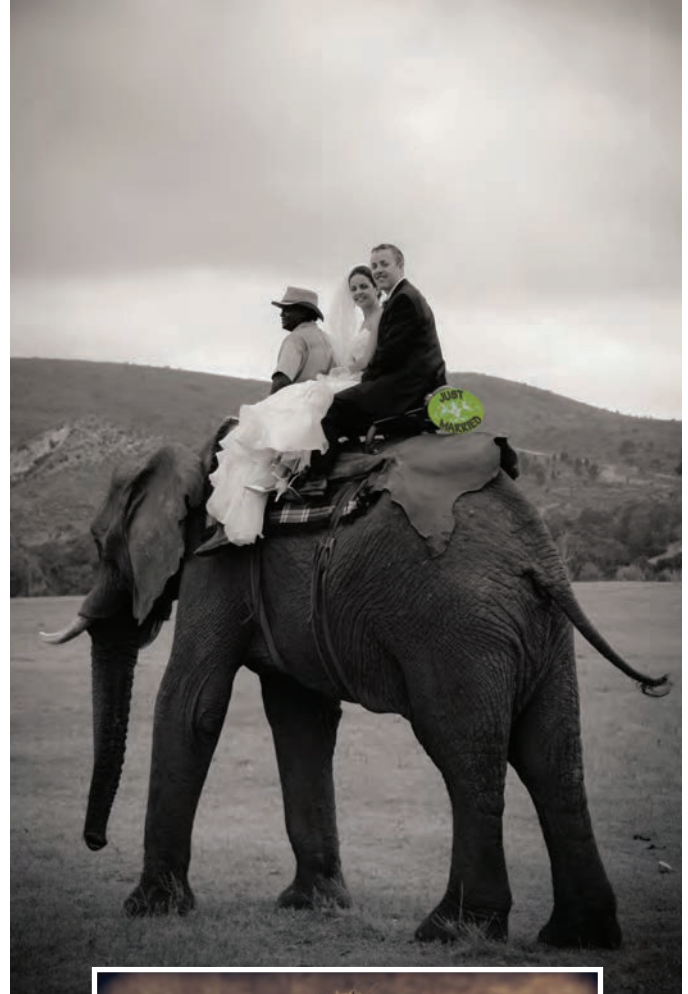
Love knows no boundaries, especially when an international company is involved in the matchmaking. More than four years ago Billy met Mariska through a mutual friend. It was February 2008 and Billy and his colleague Laurentia van Rensburg were out west for work. They decided to stay through the weekend and hit the slopes at Lake Tahoe.

Originally from South Africa, Laurentia moved to the US for college and joined Billy in working at Alltech. In a fortuitous twist of fate, Laurentia invited Mariska, one of her South African friends who was living in Central California, to join them on the slopes.

Billy and Mariska immediately hit it off, though it wasn't on the slopes. As you can imagine, skiing isn't too popular in a country where temperatures rarely drop below 50 degrees. However, after getting to know Billy and reconnecting with Laurentia, Mariska planned a visit to Kentucky and immediately fell in love with the rolling hills, the bluegrass, and of course, the horses (it took a little longer to fall for Billy).

After months of courting, Billy decided to pop the question. On the first day of spring, 2010, Billy took Mariska to Ashland, the Henry Clay estate. They had a picnic on the benches that Mariska had photographed in a snowstorm during her visit. It was a picture that had long since adorned her wall. He got down on one knee and she said "Yes." They popped a bottle of Dom Perignon and dreamt about their life together.

Fast forward to March, 2011 when Billy and Mariska wed at Botlierskop, a private game reserve outside of Mariska's South African hometown of George. Joined by friends from South Africa, America, and Canada, this once in a lifetime experience became even more special. Most of the guests



from "this side of the pond" had never been to South Africa and were blown away by one of the most beautiful countries in the world. In lieu of a honeymoon, the newly married couple decided to bring their group of 20 on an African safari, orchestrated by Mariska and her mother Hester, who still lives in South Africa.

The couple lives in Lexington where Billy works at Alltech and Mariska is at home with their newborn, Olivia. [KB](#)



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BRINGING THE

Destination

TO YOUR

*Kentucky
Wedding*

by Misty Gonzalez



Since you said “Yes,” you have probably been in another world, dreaming about the ideal wedding, which you may desire to be a world away. Whether it is the chic cafes of Paris, relaxed beaches of the Caribbean or the bright festivals of Asia that has stolen your thoughts, just because you may not be able to haul the entire wedding party thousands of miles and across oceans, doesn’t mean you can’t have a destination-designed wedding. Other cultures and regions offer so many beautiful traditions and delicious cuisine that are sure to be a treat for your guests. So, if that’s what your heart desires, then what’s to stop you from bringing another world right here to Kentucky?

Chic Parisian Wedding

Paris is synonymous with romance and style. From the famous flower markets, to the chic avenues and small cafes, Paris’ old-world charm makes it a destination dream for weddings. And while Paris is 4,641 miles away from Kentucky, the feel is certainly not out of reach.

Decor: French style is very trendy right now, so finding accent pieces that will channel the glamour and grandeur of Paris should be fairly easily. Paris is a world of colors and almost any palette will work. Think black and white, with a pink accent for a chic, glamorous look. Pastels are perfect for re-creating the vibe of the famous flower markets dotting

the city. Bold yellows and blue certainly bring a feel of the French countryside as well, or go all white and neutrals for a very shabby chic look.

The thing I love about Parisian style, is that they can take something old and beat-up and make us see it as beautiful with a touch of elegance, thus the “shabby chic” trend that has become so popular. So bring on the antique and repurposed for centerpieces and accents. Use washbasins, silver pitchers, and unique finds to accent your tables. Find French prints like damask and anything with a Fleur-de-lis symbol to use as runners. I love the use of print on burlap, a very inexpensive material, to make a unique and one-of-a-kind accent.

Whatever styles you choose, multitudes of fragrant flowers are a must. In a traditional French wedding the bride carries fragrant flowers and the use of flowers all over are a very important part of the wedding. The national flower of France is the Stylized Lily, but other common flowers are Iris Flowers, Rosemary Bush, Multicolored Roses, Sunflowers, Daffodils and Castile.

Food: Cheese and wine are a major part of the French cuisine and are perfect to start off cocktail hour (make sure to choose several French wines). Old French custom

calls for the bride and groom to drink their reception toasts from an engraved, two-handled cup called the "coupe de mariage." For light fare also have croissants, French bread, Brie, apples, grapes and baskets of baguettes to accent the table. If you're willing to take a risk, try serving your guests Escargot, a Parisian favorite. For dinner, I'll defer to a la Lucie's menu, a quaint French restaurant in downtown Lexington. They offer mouth-watering dishes like Apple Pork Tenderloin and Buttermilk Fried Quail.

Venue: The Luxembourg Gardens may not be a possibility, but there are certainly a number of venues that can transform your wedding into another world. An elegant ballroom can bring the elegance and glamour, while a chateau or historic mansion will channel the beauty of the French countryside. Having a smaller wedding, find a small patio with wrought iron furniture or cozy restaurant to recreate the scene of a quaint French café.

Traditions: To complete the perfect French theme bring in a few wedding traditions. The tradition of wearing a white wedding dress began in France, as white is a sign of love, purity and innocence. The couple will stand beneath a silk canopy surrounded by incense and fragrant flowers, which are thought to ward off evil spirits. Rather than cutting the cake, try kissing over the cake. In the middle ages, wedding guests would bring small cakes and pile them as high as possible in the center of the table. The newlyweds would then kiss over the stack of cakes trying to avoid knocking them over. If they were successful it meant they would have a lifetime of prosperity.

Tropical Caribbean Wedding

If Paris is known for style and romance, the Caribbean is certainly known for its fun-loving, laid-back atmosphere. Full of colors, music and culture, the Caribbean is paradise that would make any wedding a great time. If you can't make it to the Islands, bring the Islands to Kentucky.

Décor: Caribbean style can vary from tranquil colors inspired by the calming sea or bright hues found in tropical gardens. If you are looking for a more peaceful effect, think light turquoise and soft pink. If you want to really bring the



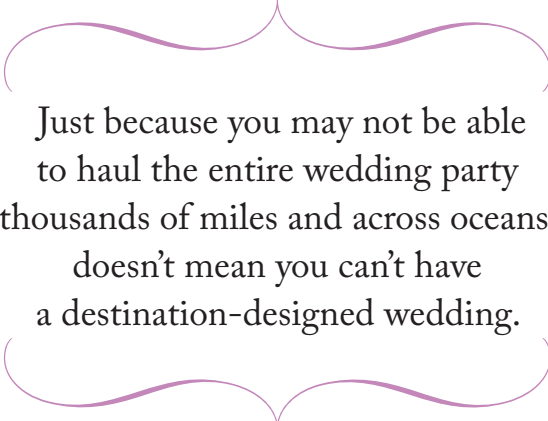
festive Caribbean atmosphere, look to more vibrant colors like yellow, orange, green and bright blues.

Tropical islands are known for their lush plant life, which bring beautiful colors and aromas to any setting. Include flowers like orchids, plumeria, jasmine, bougainvillea, and hibiscus in centerpieces and decorations for a truly tropical feel.

Channel the Caribbean's relaxed Island culture with a laid-back, summer style. Hang hammocks or hammock chairs for additional seating; use tiki torches for lighting and to ward off any pesky insects. Incorporate shells and driftwood into centerpieces and accent pieces and hang string lights, like those found at Target, around the dance floor for a romantic vibe. Make the dress a bit more relaxed, perhaps linen suits for the groom and groomsmen and flowers in the bridal party's hair.

Food: Food from location-to-location varies, with Caribbean countries all touting unique national dishes, which they are very proud of. But no matter which island you find yourself inspired by, you are sure to find staples like coconut shrimp, plantains, jerk chicken, beans and rice and a lot of fresh, tropical fruits. The food at a typical island reception features curried goat and spicy jerk chicken.

Really bring out the lush tropics in signature cocktails that use Caribbean fruits, like a Bahama Mama or Pina Colada. Check out Lexington's Atomic Café to get a taste of Jamaican fare or Louisville's Havana Rumba for a delicious Cuban menu.



Just because you may not be able to haul the entire wedding party thousands of miles and across oceans, doesn't mean you can't have a destination-designed wedding.

Venue: Bringing the beach to Kentucky may prove a little difficult, but you are in the right state for finding a lush, green environment. There are many botanical gardens and parks that can certainly have the feel of the rainforest with the right touch of color and exotic flowers. Also, consider using a venue with a pool or hosting your reception at a Caribbean-themed restaurant.

Traditions: Many of the traditions found in the islands are borrowed from the U.S., but some would really take your guests by surprise. In Brazil, it's mandatory for the groom to tame an unbridled donkey, demonstrating his valor and manliness. And in Puerto Rico, it's customary for a doll version of the bride to be placed at the head of the receiving

table. Caribbean weddings usually forego a best man and often times the bride is escorted by her brother, mother and father. Receptions will go on all night (may want to run this by your venue) and many toasts are made throughout the reception to the bride and groom.

The "Black Cake" is a tradition passed down through generations, usually replacing the wedding cake. The tradition calls for a "Black Cake", with the recipe handed down from the mother to the daughter. Basic ingredients include flour, brown sugar, butter, glazed cherries, raisins, prunes, currants and eggs. It is served with a hot rum sauce.

Festive in the Far East

If you are looking for weddings and customs unlike anything you have ever seen before, then the opposite side of the world is exactly the place to start your search. Countries like China, Japan and India are known for throwing extravagant and beautiful ceremonies, some which last weeks at a time.

Décor: Color is very important in many Asian countries. And while, on this end of the world, white tends to be the color of choice for brides, in Japan the color purple represents love and many brides lean towards beautifully colored silk kimonos. In China, red represents prosperity, love and joy and is used in a varied number of ways in a traditional Chinese Wedding. Red also plays a significant role in Indian weddings, and many times the bride will dawn a bright red gown.

Simple centerpieces and floral arrangements that incorporate cherry blossom branches or lanterns will bring a feeling of tranquility. Incorporate flowers native to Asian countries like cherry blossoms, orchids, hibiscus and Waling-waling in arrangements.

Chinese lanterns are a great, and inexpensive, addition to any wedding and will particularly bring out an Eastern vibe. They look beautiful during the day and night time, and provide extra lighting when the sun goes down. Also incorporate simple decorations like parasols and fans. Customized parasols are a particularly cute accent and are great for photos.



Fireworks are a great way to end the evening and very common at Chinese weddings.

Food: Food largely varies from country to country and culture to culture. The Chinese wedding feast is abundant with foods symbolizing long life and prosperity. The main course will commonly feature fowl, like duck or geese – often Peking duck is served since it is a red dish.

In Japan, food also holds symbolic meaning and foods associated with happiness and peace will be eaten during a wedding. Some traditional wedding dishes include Sekihan (a red azuki beans rice), Kombu or Kelp, Kazundo (herring roe), Datemaki (a rolled omelet), Japanese sushi cakes and the traditional sweet Daifuku.

Many of the dishes may be hard to provide in the area, but staples like Sushi and Peking duck can be acquired through many caterers or local restaurants.

Venue: If you can locate a garden with Cherry blossoms or plants native to Asia this would be ideal for an Asian-inspired wedding. Or find a venue that incorporates bold reds and beautiful Asian accents, perhaps an authentic restaurant.

Traditions: The wish lantern is a tradition widely used in celebrations and festivals throughout Asia and has become increasingly trendy in North American weddings. These lanterns are the equivalent of mini hot air balloons, and tradition calls for guests to make a wish for the future when releasing theirs into the sky. It's an absolutely beautiful end to a magical night. [KB](#)



DISCOVER *World-wind* HONEYMOON LOCATIONS

by Jaimeson Gann

Your wedding is a once in a lifetime event, so we think your honeymoon should be a once in a lifetime location. There may never be another time in your life when you are choosing a destination for any other reason than to spend time with your new spouse, explore a new territory and make memories that will last a lifetime. This may also be the only time that you feel as though you can spend the time off work and money to splurge.

We have decided to contact four of the best travel concierges in Kentucky to bring you some of the amazing honeymoon locations across the world. Not only will you get a glimpse into what your experience might be like, you will also see the benefits of contacting a travel concierge instead of just using whatever the next deal is on the internet. These experts are educated on each location they discuss with you, they are able to get you perks that you otherwise wouldn't be eligible for, they can let you in on the insider secrets of places to visit that not all "tourists" know and they are free ... that's right, they are there to help you free of charge! I don't know about you, but I'm excited, so let's go see where in the world you might want to visit ...



GREECE ... COMPLETE WONDERMENT

When it comes to romance, wonder, historic significance and stunning beauty, it's hard to compete with the Greek islands as a honeymoon destination. Greece combines all the perfect ingredients – a romantic setting, lots to do and plenty to see – and promises honeymooners an adventure of a lifetime. While simply flying into one of the islands is a great way to take in the sights, nothing quite compares to touring this historic part of the world by boat.

Since it's a honeymoon you're planning, an ordinary cruise ship vacation just might not do here. Instead, why not take a more intimate, hands-on yacht tour that provides you with an opportunity to soak in the stunning seascapes while affording you plenty of land time to explore?

Bliss Honeymoons offers trips to the Greek Isles that are simply perfect for couples in love. These small group tours include multiple destinations, tours of major ports of call

and points of interest and a whole lot more. Plus, since the yachts are large and the guest rosters are kept small, you can anticipate enjoying plenty of alone time.

So why consider the Greek isles for your honeymoon? Here are just a few reasons:

- **The legendary waters** – The seas surrounding the Greek isles are famed for their rugged beauty and crystal-clear quality. Enjoying the beauty from land just isn't the same as being able to truly sail it.
- **The historic sites** – Greece is one of the most ancient seats of civilization. Inasmuch, it boasts more historic sites than can easily be listed. From the famed streets of Athens to the legendary ruggedness of Crete, the towns, cities and villages of this country are well worth seeing in person.
- **The weather** – With its comfortable Mediterranean climate, Greece is the perfect destination just about any time of the year. You can expect reasonably warm winters and comfortable summers thanks to the seas.
- **The things to do** – From exploring ancient sites to snorkeling in the Aegean, you can do some amazing things while on vacation in the Greek isles. Plus, a multi-stop sailing tour enables you to truly soak up the culture of the islands and its many ports of call.

If exploring the Greek isles is on your honeymoon to do list, it just doesn't make sense to only go by land. To truly enjoy the flavor this ancient country has to offer, a sailing excursion provides you the best opportunity. Check with our certified honeymoon travel specialists for details.

Let Bliss Honeymoons make sure you are able to see the Greek Isles by land, air and sea. Kim Terry can be reached at 859.533.6501 or KimT@BlissHoneymoons.com. You may also visit them on the web at BlissHoneymoons.com.



ST. LUCIA ... MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPE

Just one look at the magnificent landscape, dramatically shaped Piton Mountains blanketed with lush foliage, long stretches of white-sand beach framed by towering palms and imposing blue seas, and you'll know that you chose the perfect place to start your life together! This majestic island is a mecca for romantics of all ages. From the fiery passions of its ancient volcano, to the serene abundance of its national rainforest and the charm of its bays, St. Lucia casts its spell of romance at every turn.

Sandals, couples only "Ultra All Inclusive," Resorts offers a "stay at one and play at three" program in St. Lucia. You will enjoy three times the fun and excitement, three times



the gourmet restaurant choices, which means food at 20 restaurants and drinks at 23 bars, and three times the vast array of land and water sports options by using the free shuttle between all resorts as often as you choose. Water sports include scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, hobie cat sailing, windsurfing, paddle boarding, aquatrykes and so much more. Land sports include golf, fitness center, tennis, billiards, basketball, yoga, aerobics and again, so much more. Or, you can choose to relax and rejuvenate at the pool, beach, swim-up pool bar, or visit the Red Lane Spa for pampering.

There is also much to see and do around this beautiful island by taking optional tours. From a catamaran cruise to see the world's only drive in volcano and a lovely botanical garden, to snorkeling in secluded bays, to cooling off in a majestic waterfall, to zip lining in the lush rainforest, you will have an insider's look at all the hidden hotspots & off the beaten-path treasures of this island paradise.

Contact Memorable Travels to help you find the honeymoon location of your dreams. Contact Maureen & Ellen, both Preferred Sandals Travel Concierges at Maureen@MemorableTravels.com, toll free 888.827.9132 or 502.545.2460 or visit MemorableTravels.com.



SOUTH AFRICA ... MAJESTIC BEAUTY

South Africa is becoming a unique honeymoon destination. It is best known for its wildlife safaris, beautiful landscape, and its friendly people.

Stay in an exclusive safari lodge or luxury tent in a private game reserve. Observe Africa's wildlife close-up from the safety of your open safari vehicle or experience an Elephant Back Safari. Visit one of the romantic spa hotels in Cape Town, a beautiful wine estate or an exotic beach, all with personal and exceptional service. Enjoy South Africa's delicious cuisine and wines at an intimate candlelight dinner.

Visit South Africa for a life changing experience! South Africa is a country of endless and majestic beauty, romantic, safe, and full of adventure, the place to visit for your Honeymoon!

Contact Ntaba Tours, your South African travel specialists, Robin and Stella Mountain who will work with you to design



your unique and personalized honeymoon. Give us a call today at 502-545-1878, email us at Robin@NTabaTours.com, or visit us online at NTabaTours.com to start planning.



PARIS ... CULTURAL PARADISE


The “City of Lights” is a romantic wonderland for honeymooners, with easy access from the United States. Enjoy sweeping vistas and elegant squares and boulevards as you revel in fine wine and cuisine.

Located in the heart of northern France, Paris lies on the banks of the meandering river Seine. An evening dinner cruise on the Seine allows spectacular views of the city at night. The Louvre, which is a former royal fortress, is one of the largest museums in the world, and a must-see for any first-time visitor. And don't miss Luxembourg Gardens – a beautiful setting to enjoy a picnic for two. In the old village of Montmartre, the basilica of Sacre-Couer is a cool, quiet refuge from the busy streets, or partake in a show at the Moulin Rouge .

Begun in 1163, and taking over 200 years to complete, Notre Dame Cathedral is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture and one of the most visited religious monuments in the world. The Eiffel Tower is perhaps Paris's most famous landmark,

built by architect Gustave Eiffel as a temporary attraction for the 1889 World Fair. The restaurant there has lovely views of the city at night. A walk along the Champs-Elysees has never been more lovely with recent restorations to the area. At its crest, in an intersection of 12 avenues, stands the Arc de Triomphe, a 164 foot Napoleonic monument which is home to the tomb of the unknown soldier. And, Paris is famous for its theater and opera with a never-ending list of options for evening entertainment.

Let AAA help you plan your romantic honeymoon to this beautiful city, and be swept away to make memories you will cherish for a lifetime. To speak with a Wedding Travel Concierge, call 800.568.5222 in the Lexington or Central/Eastern Kentucky area, or call 800.727.2552 for the Louisville or Western Kentucky area, or visit aaa.com/travel.

Are you ready to take the plunge? We can't wait to see and hear where you are going on your honeymoon. Please send us updates and photos to Hello@KentuckyBrideMagazine.com and we will showcase your journey! 

9 Secrets to Packing for the Perfect Honeymoon

by Misty Gonzalez



It won't be too long before you are embarking on your honeymoon...hopefully to the destination of your dreams. The view will be breathtaking and the ocean crystal clear, the cocktails full of fruit and you'll finally have some peace and quiet with the one you love. But nothing can spoil a beautiful honeymoon like packing all the wrong things, having to use all your spending money on baggage fees and spending your entire honeymoon hunting down the only convenient store on the island. So, here are a few tips that will help to make sure you pack for the perfect trip.

Tip 1 - What will you be doing?

Make a list of all the things you plan to do while on your honeymoon. Do you want to go dancing, or whitewater rafting? Do you want to spend time visiting historical sites or swimming with dolphins? If you have specific locations you plan to visit, check their websites and see if there are any regulations on clothing. For instance, many of the beautiful cathedrals in Europe, including the Vatican, require that women wear skirts or dresses and have their shoulders covered before entering. To go whitewater rafting or hiking, you are usually required to wear specific kinds of shoes, like water shoes. If you want to go dancing at a nightclub or eat at a fancy restaurant, see if there is a dress code required. Make sure you don't have to sit on the sidelines even once.


Tip 2 - How long will you be gone?

The general rule of thumb is, for trips less than one week pack one shirt per day, one layering jacket or sweater, one bottom per every two days, no more than two pairs of shoes and underwear for every day. Go ahead and toss the shoe rule right out the window, but shoes do take up a good deal of space so don't go overboard. My suggestion is to pick a few key pairs that will go with everything and get rid of redundancies (like three pairs of black wedges). I would also suggest you add a couple of extra shirts and underwear, seasonal items like bathing suits and of course, the lingerie...it is your honeymoon!


Tip 3 - To roll or fold?

There are a multitude of different methods for effectively packing your suitcase, some save space, some decrease wrinkles and some are just easy (the pile and sit on the

bag method). Use a mixture of folding and rolling to optimize space, but have clothes looking nice on arrival. Folding clothes is the most traditional way of packing and recommended for clothing that wrinkles easily. Fold along natural creases and seams for the least amount of wrinkles. This method is good for shirts, pants, dresses and larger items. Rolling clothes allows for much tighter packing but generally creates a ton of wrinkles. This is a good method to use for smaller items like underwear and bathing suits, as well as materials that don't wrinkle easily. At the end of your trip, roll all your clothes to create more space for souvenirs.



What are the items you can absolutely not leave behind? Make a special list for these and check it again before you leave for the airport.



Tip 4 - Do your homework

First thing you'll want to do is check the weather for the location where you'll stay. You may have gotten those rooms 75% off because it's monsoon season. Check and double-check what to expect. Pack what makes sense and limit the "just in case" clothes, you don't need your earmuffs if you are going to Bermuda.

Tip 5 - Call ahead

Check with the hotel, cruise ship, bed and breakfast, or wherever it is you might be venturing off to and find out what will already be available to you. Most hotels will provide a hair dryer, shampoos and conditioners, and maybe even beach towels, sunscreen, bathrobes and slippers. The less you have to pack, the more you can take back.

Tip 6 - Make a list and check it twice

What are the items you can absolutely not leave behind? Make a special list for these and check it again before you leave for the airport. This list should include any prescription medications (make sure you have enough to last your entire trip), passports or travel documents, cash and credit cards, and anything else that may be irreplaceable or could stop your entire trip all together.

Tip 7 - What not to bring

Consider where you are going and what you may want to leave behind. If you are traveling to a destination that has high poverty rates or major cities with potential pick pockets, you may want to consider leaving flashy and expensive accessories behind. Also, if you will be taking on some crazy adventures, leave jewelry behind. My husband lost his wedding ring whitewater rafting on the first day of our honeymoon. Don't bring anything that's not replaceable and even though you're so excited to be married, consider leaving those wedding bands behind. Most men are not used to wearing rings and will take them off and fidget with them constantly.

Tip 8 - Make weigh-in

Airlines have specific regulations around the size and weight of baggage. Fees for overweight or irregular sized baggage are usually around \$100 to \$200, so you definitely want to make weigh-in. Most airlines require checked baggage to be 50 pounds or less and a total of 62 inches (length+width+height). Regulations are a little more flexible for first class and business class flyers. You can have two carry-on items and that includes your purse. These items cannot exceed 22"x14"x9" and must fit easily into standard overhead compartments.

Tip 9 - Pack for an amazing time

Remember you are with the person who loved you enough to marry you after you went way over budget on linens and flowers, acted erratic about the seating chart and insisted on you both visiting every venue within 100 miles. It doesn't matter what you wear, you will look amazing to each other and that's all that matters. So just worry about making sure you have the items you need to have the best time of your life. **KB**

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Travel Checklist

by Misty Gonzalez



Your destination and plans will largely determine many of the items you need. Be sure to take all the variables into consideration when planning, like weather, what activities you plan to partake in and places you intend to visit. Below are some absolute MUSTS to get your packing started.

Travel documents – Are you going out of the country? Be sure to have your passport, which can take up to six weeks to arrive after you submit your application (so order it well in advance). Some countries, like Brazil and India, require Visas for American tourists as well, review the travel website for your destination well in advance so you can make arrangements. No matter where you are flying, though, you will need a government issued photo identification, like a driver's license.

Copies of all of the above – Make multiple copies of all of your documents and keep them separate from originals. In case a bag should go missing, at least you have somewhere to start. Also, store all the copies in a safe place online that can be accessed from anywhere.

Itinerary and travel information – Have telephone numbers and addresses of all destinations at which you will be staying. If you are traveling abroad you will need to enter this information on the landing card before entering the country. Also, leave your itinerary behind with family or friends in case of emergency.

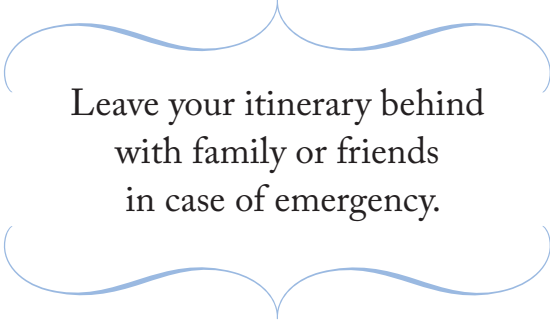
Multiple forms of payment – Banking systems abroad can sometimes be a little less reliable. I've had my run-in with a hungry ATM in Barcelona. It ate my debit card upon arrival and threatened to ruin a two-week vacation since I didn't bring any other currency. So be sure to take plenty of options: credit card, debit card, local currency, at least \$200 US currency, and traveler's checks if accepted at your destination. Get small bills as well as large bills, likely your first payment abroad could be a taxi ride or bellhop and you'll need something to tip with.

Prescriptions medicines – Nothing will ruin a trip like not being able to properly take care of any medical conditions. Be sure to refill any prescriptions prior to your trip so you

have enough to last you throughout. Clearly label any prescription medications when traveling abroad.

Travel insurance is never a bad idea, and while each package is different, most offer coverage for trip cancellation or interruption, medical emergencies, emergency travel, weather-related disruptions and more.

Vaccinations – Check with your physician to see if you will need any vaccines before you travel. For many countries (like South Africa) you will need to start taking Malaria pills.



Leave your itinerary behind
with family or friends
in case of emergency.

Guides and more guides – Invest in a good travel guide that includes recommended sites, restaurants and maps if you are unfamiliar with your destination. Also, have a pocket language guide if you are not fluent – you'll definitely find opportunities to put it to use.

Cell phone – You may have very little service or no service where you are traveling. Consider how important is it that you have your cell phone, and remember it may be much more expensive to use overseas. If you decide to turn it off and enjoy the peace and quiet, do bring something to keep track of time and be sure to leave emergency contact information behind with family and friends. If a phone is a must, contact your service provider to inquire about international coverage or consider buying a prepaid phone and plan in the country upon arrival (it may end up being less expensive).

Cameras – Bring something to document your trip, pocket cameras and video cameras. If you'll be on the beach, bring a plastic bag or protective covering to keep the sand from ruining your equipment. Also consider buying an underwater camera



When traveling, it is nice to have a bag that can serve double-duty. The Charlie Backpack Purse from Ellington converts from shoulder bag to backpack with a simple tug on the straps.



if you plan to go snorkeling or scuba diving. It's likely your memory card may fill up quickly, so be sure to bring an extra.

Stay healthy – Pack a small first aid kit. If you are traveling where the language is unfamiliar, a pharmacy can prove difficult to navigate. Also list allergies and any medical conditions on a card to keep with the first aid kit.

Battery alarm clock – This is a must if you will be traveling on the road a lot. It's great to have a trusty clock and never miss a flight or connection.

Electrical adapters for overseas locations – There is nothing worse than shorting out your hair dryer while taking down the hotel's entire electrical grid. Be sure to pack an electrical adaptor, which can be found at any Target or Wal-Mart.

Items to leave behind – Your itinerary with family or friends, copy of passport or identification, unneeded credit cards and other cards like your gym membership, expensive jewelry, and a pocket knife or anything that resembles a weapon. KB

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Shantung,
Organza, Taffeta,
Tulle ... Oh My!

Anne Barge is known for her classic designs with museum-quality workmanship. She has made her little girl dreams an everyday reality by creating these exquisite wedding gowns.

by **Jaimeson Gann**

A Conversation with Anne Barge

Anne Barge is a designer for the bride of the ages, one whose designs will stand the test of time. She blends the classic styles reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly with today's modern silhouettes. You could say this is because Anne designed her first wedding gown at age three and has never stopped. You could say this is because she draws inspiration from the films of the 40s and 50s era. Or you can simply see from her collections, that an Anne Barge bride is classic, timeless, understated and elegant.

An Anne Barge wedding gown is made with impeccable quality, both in construction and fit. Silk satins, shantung, organza, tulle, lace and taffetas are the “go to” fabrics and she is constantly on the lookout for ways to make these fabrics look new and fresh. Each dress is a work of art with careful attention given to every detail, from the pure silk couture fabrics to the simple clean lines accented with delicate embroidery and beading.

Making sure that every bride has the opportunity to have her Dream Dress, Anne has added three labels to her collection. The Anne Barge Collection now encompasses, Blue Willow Bride – La Fleur Collection – Anne Barge Couture Collection – Anne Barge Black Label. A Blue Willow Bride will be able to receive the Anne Barge timeless designs starting at just \$1,900. From there, the designs, fabrics and embellishments continue to go up to \$20,000 and include the most lavish laces and beading imaginable.

Swarovski, the company known for making items from crystals, asked Anne Barge, along with only three other US

designers, to create a one of a kind crystallized wedding gown, that is forever featured in their coffee table book, *Unbridled: The Marriage of Tradition and Avant Garde*.

The international exposure and high praise that Anne receives is just icing on the cake for her. Anne truly loves to see real brides in her gowns, and to showcase this, she has started a blog. This allows brides to see her collection on real brides like themselves, and not just on models, as many of the brides like to take advantage of their ability to make her gown a one-of-a-kind.

I was lucky enough to ask Anne two personal questions for this interview.

KB: What has been your most beloved wedding dress that you've ever designed?

AB: Style #399, It was so classic and magnificent with the porcelain arm jewelry and broaches designed by Debra Moreland. The gown was made in blush silk taffeta with lots of pleating and draping.

KB: When you attend a wedding ... what is your favorite part?

AB: I have to say that it is the moment when the groom first sees the bride. This is a moment that is a high point of the wedding for me. On a selfish note, I also love the reaction from the Groom when he sees the bride for the first time in my dress!

If you are a real Kentucky Anne Barge bride, we'd love to see you on her blog. Simply send your photos to Info@AnneBarge.com. **KB**



Designer: **Matthew Christopher**



Designer: **Watters**



Designer: **Vera Wang**

