

WeddingChannel's

Special Section
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WEDDINGBELLS



200

NEW GOWNS,
shoes and accessories for
ballroom, backyard or beach!

**BONUS: Bridal
Beauty Guide**

Perfect lips, eyes, nails
Gorgeous hairstyles
Naturally beautiful makeup

destination
wedding ideas:
elegant and easy

dazzling
wedding-day
jewelry you
can afford!

scrapbook
this magazine
online!

celebrate
your **style**
bouquets to keepsakes

SUMMER 2005 \$4.95

529



FORMERLY WEDDINGBELLS



Yellow quartz, rose quartz and green jade quartz headbands with mother-of-pearl (\$52 each), by Jane Tran; Mistyx, Aspen, Colo.

Q What can I do with my hair for my breezy beach wedding, without a professional hairstylist?

A Jane Tran must have been reading the minds of beach-bound brides everywhere when she came up with these geniuses—and genuinely pretty—stretchy headbands that work for long or short hair. First blow-dry hair and curl with a curling iron (no need to be a perfectionist here—it's actually better if you're haphazard about it). Then break down the curls a bit by finger combing your hair with a little pomade to get that sexy, pieceny look. Then pop one of these pearl and seashell numbers on. The band itself somehow disappears, leaving a shimmering little halo that's not at all tiara-y, yet bridal perfect.

If curling your hair seems daunting, then just comb everything back and use one of Tran's ponytail holders for a sleek, chic look. Either way, you keep your hair from blowing in your face and you get that essential just-you-only-more-spectacular look. No pro stylist necessary.

From left: Natural freshwater pearl hair tie (\$72), cream pearl hair tie (\$40), and crystal and mother-of-pearl hair tie (\$49), by Jane Tran; Mistyx, Aspen, Colo.



Q I'm getting married in Jamaica at a five-star resort. My dress is not the problem—it's what to do about my bridesmaids. What works for a fancy but not too formal wedding? The ceremony is on the beach but the reception is in a gorgeous dining room.

A Go special but keep the look uncomplicated. New designs in floral prints, stripes and fabrics with two-color iridescence in hot, tropical shades give you that casual-meets-elegant feeling. A strapless or Empire bodice with an A-line skirt is a simple style that's easy to wear in a hot climate and also ups the wear-it-again factor. ♥ For details, see the Shopping Guide.



Satin Empire waist, tea-length dress (\$230), by Alvina Valenta; Fortuna Bridal Salon, New York.



Taffeta gown with ribbon belt (\$230), by Jim Hjelm; Kleinfeld, New York.



Silk douppioni leaf-print dress with full skirt (\$200) and rhinestone bow pin (\$35), by Saeyoung Vu Couture; vucouture.com.



Silk douppioni leaf-print dress (\$280) with Empire waist tie (\$25), by Saeyoung Vu Couture; vucouture.com.

There's more online



Visit weddingchannel.com/gowns to search for bridesmaid dresses by designer or price.

There's more at WeddingChannel.com



There's more at **WeddingChannel.com**

Find your wedding style!

This is the way too-much-fun part—discovering a breathtaking cake, deciding on the colors for your bridesmaid dresses and finding that fantasy resort for your unforgettable honeymoon. Get inspired at WeddingChannel.com, where you'll find ideas and advice to suit your wedding style, and all the tools you need to make your dream come true.

Get ideas



FLOWERS

Bring your wedding theme to life—access a database brimming with bouquet, boutonniere and decor ideas, including arches and table centerpieces.

weddingchannel.com/flowers



CAKES

Find a stunning variety of cake designs, from traditional to trendy, and accessories to make the moment unforgettable.

weddingchannel.com/cakes



Get advice



PHOTOGRAPHY

Tips and ideas from the experts cover all the angles, from makeup advice for gorgeous portraits to planning solutions for photography budgeting.

weddingchannel.com/phototips



DESTINATION WEDDINGS

From the budget to the guest list, you'll find the answers to all your questions about planning a destination wedding, whether it's on a beach in Hawaii or at a bed-and-breakfast in New Hampshire.

weddingchannel.com/travel



Get it done



FAVORS

From money-saving tips to presentation ideas, find everything you need to know about keepsakes for your guests. There are edible favors, do-it-yourself favors—even favors just for kids.

weddingchannel.com/favors



SHOPPING

See what's new at the Wedding Supplies Shop, where you'll find style and selection at every price for: **guest favors • gifts for attendants • ceremony accessories • reception essentials • bridal accessories • invitations • books • music**

weddingchannel.com/weddingshop



Real brides speak:

Q.

My maid of honor and bridesmaids are all different sizes. What style of dresses do you recommend? —J&D

A.

Have you considered letting them wear different style dresses? I did and was very happy with the decision. Here are a couple of photos.—MLA

Get answers and support from brides like you, on the WeddingChannel.com message boards.

weddingchannel.com/messageboards



How to get started

Whether you've had a fairy-tale vision planned since you were five or want a trendsetting event that reflects who you are right now, you'll stay calm, focused and smile throughout the entire planning process when you rely on WeddingChannel.com. Get started now. weddingchannel.com/gettingstarted

• Use the Local Sites & Services Directory to find venues and service providers in your area—or anywhere you plan to have your wedding. weddingchannel.com/local

• And register with the best stores 24/7. weddingchannel.com/registry

WeddingChannel.com | The perfect site for your wedding

dramatic details

Put a twist on a classic theme with fresh, unexpected touches.

beachside chic



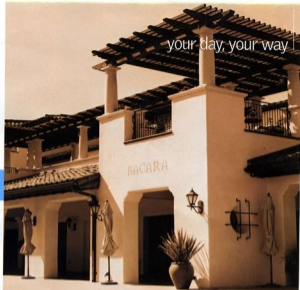
A beach-themed wedding sparks images of tropical prints, fruity cocktails and bright, hot colors. Colette Daniels and Mark Silva, however, wanted something a little more chic, something a little more *them*. "Mark and I love the beach," says the bride. "The blue theme was inspired by our four children having the most beautiful blue eyes we have ever seen." With that in mind, Southern Cali-

ifornia event planner Jill La Fleur helped devise an upscale celebration full of details that strayed from a typical California beach party: a palette of soft blues and whites, a pianist at a baby grand, a ceremony not on the sand but in a garden. "Very elegant and classy, yet still casual," says La Fleur.



splashes of blue

Floral designer Mindy Rice of Mindy Rice Floral Design in Santa Barbara used the French blue fabric of the bridesmaid's dress as inspiration for a pretty bouquet that included blue delphinium and hydrangea with accents of tweedia.



your day, your way

golden retreat

Bacara Resort and Spa in Santa Barbara, Calif., is a luxury venue for a couple's nuptials. A garden setting for 50 to 800 guests, stunning views of the Pacific, a spa and loads of activities make it ideal for weekend or destination weddings. Colette and Mark held their ceremony on the Miro Lawn and the reception in the Rotunda. "The couple really wanted guests to feel relaxed in an intimate yet classy environment," says La Fleur.

"2004 was a year full of pink. So I was excited to finally do a wedding of blues and creams: from the flowers to the blue silk ribbon wrapping the napkins." —Jill La Fleur, wedding planner



soft and sweet

A Wedgwood-blue cake with fresh sprigs of lily of the valley, white royal icing and an elegant silver cake pedestal was made for the occasion by Santa Barbara's Sugar. Underneath the smooth fondant were three layers of flavor: lemon cream, milk chocolate and white chocolate.



sitting pretty

After seeing a sketch of the bride's soft, flowing dress and getting a swatch of the fabric, La Fleur decided to incorporate the romantic look into the reception room, dressing elegant fruitwood Chiavari chairs with sheer chiffon from Royal Rents in Santa Barbara.

beachside chic



blue mood

"I had a vision of blue-and-white-striped outfits back in the Old Hollywood era," says La Fleur about the round tables she draped with a layer of solid white linen and a white satin stripe overlay from Regal Rents. For decor, Rice added blue-and-white floral centerpieces in silver urns and tall glass votives wrapped with blue silk ribbon, creating an intimate, conversation-friendly space.



shelling out

Colette wanted to incorporate seashells to play up the ceremony's beachside location, which was up on a bluff. Rice came up with the idea of a white petal aisle lined with large shells at every other row. The bride loved the shells so much, she had them shipped home after the wedding.



classic white

To complement Colette's elegant dress, La Fleur envisioned a classic all-white bouquet, which Rice created with garden roses and lily of the valley. "All it took was for me to describe some of my ideas for the wedding...and [Rice's] creative side took over," says La Fleur.



surf's up

The couple purchased beach bags and filled them with favors like scented candles and mints, thinking many of their guests could use them during their stay at the resort. "Guests loved them," says La Fleur. "And they looked great with everything else, too."



stars and shells

Instead of baskets for the flower girls to carry, La Fleur suggested pomander balls. "It's one of my favorite looks—almost like a snail purse," says La Fleur. Rice tied small shells and starfish to the ends of long silk ribbons and dangled them from a blue-and-white floral ball. "The shells blew when the girls walked. It was stunning!"



from the sea

A sash station at the cocktail hour called attention to the seaside theme. The catering, which was provided by Bacara, also included champagne, mineral waters, Grilled Portobello Mushroom Risotto and a specialty martini bar. The couple arranged for extra waitstaff to ensure exceptional service for their guests.



green cards

To hold the name cards, silver mist julep cups were filled with a plant called persea and topped with the freshest blue flowers. The all-white card stock featuring elegant calligraphy came from Letter Perfect Stationery in Montecito, Calif. Besides being functional, the cups doubled as favors for guests to take home.

your day, your way

dramatic details art inspired



Let your venue trigger a streak of creative ideas.

Personalizing your wedding doesn't have to be as obvious as monogrammed favors and tables named after your favorite places. For Megan Ullmann and Pete Jacobs, a personal celebration meant a more subtle expression of their wish for an unconventional event that broke from tradition.

It began with the venue: Headlands Center for the Arts, a residence and creative hotbed for artists located on former military property in the coastal wilderness of Sausalito, Calif. "We loved the look and feel of the building and its natural surroundings," says Megan, an event planner by profession. The rustic, artistic ambience was the backdrop for a vibrant color scheme with sunflowers and wildflowers popping up everywhere, even in photographs taken by Megan's mother that were hung on the bathroom walls. "We wanted guests to enjoy themselves and feel like they were attending a distinctive celebration."



aisle art

The building's "Eastwing" was transformed into a stunning ceremony site; the main attraction (besides the couple) was a rich orange aisle runner made of douppioni silk. "The building's interior needed a 'punch,' as the existing colors of the walls and ceilings were dark," says Megan. She custom-ordered the material from Saeed Fabric in Los Angeles, and San Francisco floral and event designer Kenneth Sloan lined the aisle with sunflower heads and specially designed iron candelabras.

Dynamite colors are just the thing for a gorgeous summer wedding. Look to your most-loved shades and blooms as well as your wedding locale for inspiration.



well-dressed table

In the building's "Mess Hall"—where dinner was served—existing rectangular tables (head table shown here) were topped with a pink cotton underlay and a bright orange silk overlay (the same douppioni used for the aisle runner).



"the barracks"

The Headlands Center for the Arts' main building—944 Fort Barry—is an old military barracks renovated by artists into unique functional spaces available for rent. The cocktail hour was held just outside the building, where "the setting and view is spectacular in every direction," says the bride.



poppies and orchids

"I wanted a nontraditional, less tailored, colorful bouquet," says Megan. Floral designer Sloan made her vision come to life with an arrangement of orange poppies, cymbidium orchids, grasses and poppy-colored Midori ribbon. Orchids and grasses were also used in the corsages, boutonnieres and attendant's bouquet.



coming up roses

Instead of a single centerpiece on each reception table, Sloan used a collection of iron and glass containers filled with Kiko and Naranja roses and ivory pillar candles. Small votives were placed on the windowsill around the perimeter of the room, amping the glow.



good seats

The venue's curved benches with army blanket backrests made for unusually cool ceremony seating. Later in the evening the room was transformed for dancing, with the natural light from the huge windows replaced by amber up-lighting.



curtain call

Orange draping was installed to divide the building's single large bathroom into two. Built in 1907, some of the facilities no longer function, so the couple creatively placed sunflower heads in some of the non-working sinks and bachelors in a few latrines.



musical chairs

Eclectic chairs in various shapes and sizes added an artistic, quirky style to the celebration. The chairs, which belong to the venue, are mostly made of natural woods, but a few "oddballs" in bright colors seemed to fit right in.



wild creation

To reflect the natural surroundings and free-spirited working environment of the venue, Sloan created two large floral arrangements: wildflowers, grasses and cymbidium orchids in rusted iron bowls.



sunny places

The color scheme and sunflower motif even made its way onto the table cards, which were designed and created by Sloan. Each name was lettered by a local calligrapher. ♥

Get ideas

Visit weddingchannel.com/realweddings for more great American celebrations.

all about the details

Creating a coordinated look for your wedding is easier than you think. Simply pick a color or let your surroundings guide you, and extraordinary details can take shape. Here, creative tips that will help you build an incredible event of your own.



Have your caterer create a signature drink based on your wedding color scheme—a delicious detail that guests won't forget!

Your floral designer will be integral when it comes to adding color to your celebration, but use your imagination, too. Think about less obvious ways of incorporating color, for example, in details such as food, serving dishes, even soaps and hand towels for the rest rooms. Here are some more inspiring ideas.

8 quick tips

1. A single color can create a strong, coordinated look, even when dealing with a lot of disparate items like borrowed tablecloths and vases. Choosing green, for instance, might result in a ceremony site decorated with garlands of greenery entwined with fairy lights, and bridesmaids wearing pale moss-green dresses and carrying striking all-green bouquets of hydrangeas.
2. Ask your bartender for inventive suggestions. For a summer wedding, drinks

served with ice cubes filled with fresh berries (to match a color scheme of reds and pinks) or decorated with blossoms of a specific color make for a subtle but stunning touch.

3. Dress up reception tables with rich liners in your wedding colors. Place a small circle or square of solid-colored cloth over a larger floor-length tablecloth in a contrasting color or pattern; or layer sheer chiffon, organza, lace or point d'esprit over a bright floor-length cloth. If store-bought tablecloths just don't fit your vision, raid the nearest designer fabric outlet for extrawide fabrics in a variety of colors and patterns.

4. Consider making your own table runners, matched to your bridesmaid dresses, for the buffet, bar and head table. Cut a bolt of fabric in half lengthwise for a slimmer strip and finish the edges.

5. If you plan on renting a tent, think beyond standard white canvas walls. Most tent companies offer colorful dropped or gathered fabric liners, wrapped poles and lighting for a dramatic effect. Gorgeous chair covers in the color of your choice will also do the trick.

6. Fill a varied grouping of plain and textured glass tumblers with votive candles or flowers. Dye the water with food coloring to match your color scheme. Experiment to get the look you want: one color used in various concentrations for a coordinated look of pale and intense hues, or a collection of different colors.

7. As a simple and elegant touch, slip a fresh, color-coordinated blossom into each folded napkin.

8. Even your chef can take a lead from your colors. A simple chilled tomato soup (red), a spring pea soup (green) or plain white plates decorated with vibrant sauces will set the tone of the table. Ask your caterer about getting serving trays in your wedding colors—resin and Plexiglas often come in a variety of shades.

Beachside chic



Featured wedding vendors

Bacara Resort: Santa Barbara, Calif., (805) 968-0100, bacararesort.com.
Elizabeth Messina Photography: Ventura, Calif., (310) 779-9151, elizabethmessina.com.
Jill La Fleur, The Wedding Planner: Santa Barbara, Calif., (805) 688-7805, lafleurweddings.com.
Letter Perfect Stationery: Montecito, Calif., (805) 969-7998, letterperfectstationery.com.
Mindy Rice Floral Design: Los Olivos, Calif., (805) 688-2499.
Regal Rents: Santa Barbara, Calif., (805) 566-3566, regalrents.com.
Sugar: Santa Barbara, Calif., (805) 683-5600, sugarcakes.com.

Art inspired



Featured wedding vendors

Headlands Center for the Arts: Sausalito, Calif., (415) 331-2787, headlands.org.
Kenneth Sloan Special Events and Wedding Florist: San Francisco, Calif., (415) 864-6184, kennethsloan.com.
Saeed Fabric: Los Angeles, Calif., (213) 623-9211.
Union Photography: San Francisco, Calif., (415) 863-8223, unionphoto.com. ♥