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WINTER 2021/SPRING 2022 EDITION

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No matter the destination, here are some helpful travel products and must-know info.

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**50 *Balinese Botanica*** – Sunlit gardens with romantic enclaves and the most beautiful details can hardly upstage our fun-loving couple. Smiles, neon art, hats and a four-legged furry prop give this photo shoot life and you a little inspiration for your own nuptials.

**64 *Caribbean Couture in the Dominican Republic*** – From the famed shores of Juanillo Beach and an oceanfront terrace overlooking the sea to a sunset garden lawn and a seaside cabana, we bring you five different looks to inspire your wedding away in the Dominican Republic. Choose from sleek and sexy or fun and whimsical. Our vendor team created magic at five all-inclusive Playa Hotels & Resorts and any one of these stunning set-ups is sure to catch your eye.

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No matter the size of your wedding, guests finding their seats in an easy and fun way is important for starting your reception out on the right foot. We arm you with inspired ideas and helpful tips from the pros for both seating charts and escort cards.

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We've enlisted the advice of pro-destination wedding planner Kelly McWilliams to help guests get to their seats unscathed.

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Everything from overlooked RSVP deadlines and travel logistics to menu planning and plus-ones is covered in this issue's Adventures in Etiquette.

### 94 *Real Destination Weddings*

Nothing inspires us quite like other couples' success stories! We are highlighting seven stunning real destination weddings including a fun and fabulous fete in Playa del Carmen (pg. 94), a glistening garden soiree in Maui (pg. 98), a romantic elopement under the Eiffel Tower (pg. 102), classical elegance in Santa Barbara (pg. 106) a tropical stunner in Naples (pg. 110), oceanfront opulence in Cabo San Lucas (pg. 114), and a poolside party in Key West (pg. 118).



Photography by Mike Cassimatis

FLORIDA

# NAPLES

ELIZABETH +  
TYLER





**WORDS BY:** Courtney Kellar  
**IMAGES BY:** Mike Cassimatis  
**WEDDING DESIGNER & PLANNER:**  
Kristin Ashley Events

With family in the Midwest and an October wedding date, Elizabeth and Tyler went in search of a warm-weather destination. “We thought Naples looked beautiful and knew it would be nice, warm weather the time of year we wanted to get married,” says the bride. They took a chance and visited their destination wedding location for the first time when searching for a venue. Fortunately, it was love at first sight and the couple went full-steam ahead with planning.

Come their wedding day, the couple was joined by just over 100 guests on the beach for a ceremony at dusk, officiated by the bride’s uncle. The warm, sunset colors were reflected in Elizabeth and Tyler’s tropical décor with bountiful floral arrangements.

After the ceremony, the newlyweds and their guests moved to an elaborately decorated courtyard for dinner. “The reception started in the courtyard of the hotel, which we enjoyed through our salad until it started raining,” recalls Elizabeth. Thankfully, the couple kept their spirits up and everyone pivoted quickly to move the dinner indoors.

“We had always planned to come inside for dancing, so after dinner we moved to another room with the band and dance floor,” says the bride. “We had the best time dancing with our guests!”

Elizabeth and Tyler took the light showers in stride and channeled the cheery, island-vibe of their décor to see them through. It doesn’t come as a surprise that the bride advises a similar plan for other couples currently planning a destination wedding. “When you are planning a wedding outside, have a plan ‘B’ that you can live with in case Mother Nature has different plans than you do that day.”





The couple thoughtfully made the most of the wedding weekend for all their guests by hosting a poolside Halloween welcome party the day before the wedding and a farewell brunch by the beach the day after. By hosting their destination wedding on Halloween weekend, the couple's guests likely expected an exciting and colorful event and Elizabeth and Tyler certainly delivered.

#### — VENDORS —

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