

BRIDES



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2017

THE STYLE ISSUE

45 OF THE PRETTIEST
NEW GOWNS

Sexy Dresses for
Plus-Size Brides

**2017'S BEST
BRIDAL SALONS**

FIND THE ONE NEAREST YOU

+ **WOW YOUR
CROWD!**

SAVE BIG ON
FLOWERS, CATERING,
DECOR & MORE

EXCLUSIVE!
HANNAH BRONFMAN'S
OVER-THE-TOP
WEDDING

GETAWAY

HONEYMOON IDEAS FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

MADE IN AMERICA

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE YOU CRAVE, THERE'S A CLASSIC RESORT OR TRENDY NEWCOMER—RIGHT HERE IN THE U.S.



NICK SIMONITE/COURTESY OF EL COSMICO

Tepee rooms at El Cosmico, a new kind of desert honeymoon in Marfa, Texas

DESERT HIDEAWAY

THE OTHERWORLDLY LANDSCAPES OF THE SOUTHWEST SET THE SCENE FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AND ROMANTIC NIGHTS BY THE FIRE

CLASSIC

Nestled in a remote area along the Arizona-Utah border, **Amangiri** rises from the majestic red rocks like a modern adobe oasis. The quiet surroundings will lull you into a peaceful and relaxed state of mind—especially when you're sipping prickly-pear margaritas in the living-room bar. After heart-pumping activities (horseback riding, rock climbing, boating on Lake Powell), chill out in a complimentary yoga class, indulge in a red-clay body wrap, or go for a soak in the resort's oversize heated pool. *Rooms from \$1,400.*

NEWCOMER

It's over seven hours by car from Dallas, but the artsy vibes in Marfa, Texas, have made it a magnet for tastemakers like Jenna Lyons and Derek Blasberg. In the middle of this cowboy country is **El Cosmico**, a creative retreat/campground with safari tents, Sioux-style tepees, Mongolian yurts, and a retro Airstream trailer. There's no restaurant, so go for chilaquiles at Cochineal, then check out art exhibits at the Chinati Foundation and shop for ceramics at Mano Mercantile. *Tents from \$85; trailers from \$160.* —Corbin Chamberlin

Architecture and environment become one at Amangiri in Canyon Point, Utah.



Don't miss Charleston's Rainbow Row on your southern honeymoon. Right: A chic guest room at 86 Cannon.

SOUTHERN CHARMER

SOUTH CAROLINA PROMISES A LEISURELY PACE, LEGIT COMFORT FOOD, AND—YOU GUESSED IT—GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY

CLASSIC

Montage Palmetto Bluff's 20,000 acres hug the May River, which you can ply by kayak or aboard *Grace*, a restored 1913 yacht. It's a quick bike ride from your waterfront cottage to the pool or the River House Lounge for a PB smash (peanut-roasted bourbon and muddled strawberries). Or grab a sweet tea and take a seat on the Main Inn's wrap-around porch, a Carolina afternoon tradition known as "porchin'." *Rooms from \$295.*

NEWCOMER

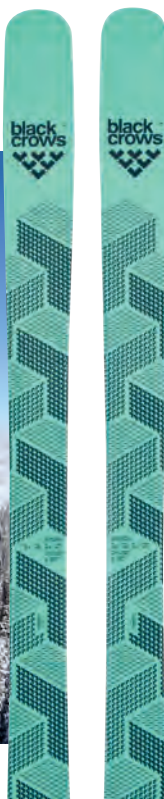
With its contemporary-meets-southern traditional decor, **86 Cannon** offers a decidedly cool vision for a five-room 1860s Charleston house. In February, husband-and-wife duo Marion and Lori Hawkins (and their canine "innkeepers," Sally and Gus) opened the place near King Street, the city's main drag. Expect boutique touches, like locally sourced breakfast quiche and nightly wine and cheese service in the bistro. The Hawkinses will also lend you the house bikes and send you up the street for Asian-inspired soul food at Xiao Bao Biscuit or cupcakes at Sugar Bakeshop. *Rooms from \$325.* —Anna Price Olson



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF THE AMANGIRI AND 86 CANNON; RICHARD ELLIS/GETTY IMAGES



Days on the slopes of Colorado's Aspen Mountain make après cocktails that much sweeter.



MOUNTAIN LODGE

SURROUNDED BY SNOWCAPPED PEAKS, ALPINE RESORT TOWNS COMBINE AWE-INSPIRING VIEWS WITH THRILL-SEEKING EXCURSIONS

CLASSIC

Aspen, Colorado, favorite **the Little Nell** opens for the summer season with the majority of its 92 rooms refreshed in a sleek contemporary style. They're so plush that you may never want to leave. (Good thing you can get an in-room massage.) But it's worth venturing outdoors at daybreak: In winter, you can be the first ones down Aspen Mountain (the hotel has exclusive access); in warmer months, try a paragliding excursion from the summit, followed by an elaborate breakfast spread at the landing in North Star Nature Preserve. *Rooms from \$550.*

NEWCOMER

South Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada border, has become increasingly buzzy thanks to an influx of Silicon Valley weekenders. So it was only a matter of time before a hip hotel like **Edgewood Tahoe** opened. The 154 rustic-chic rooms and suites—each with a gas fireplace or private terrace—make it the ideal base camp for skiing on Heavenly Mountain and nighttime sleigh rides. Once the snow melts, play golf on the resort's lakeside course or go boating on the crystal-clear water. *Rooms from \$275.*
—Amanda Eberstein

THREE WAYS TO SAVE

1 / BE FLEXIBLE

Allow some wiggle room in your dates to take advantage of cheaper seasonal or midweek rates: "Stay at resorts during the week and in cities on weekends—the opposite pattern of most travelers," says travel adviser Jack Ezon of Ovation Vacations.

2 / CONSIDER DRIVING

Compare prices on flights into all surrounding airports. A visit to the Grand Canyon can be more expensive if you fly into a regional airport like Flagstaff than if you drive less than three hours from Las Vegas—not to mention it adds a fun road trip to your itinerary.

3 / CASH IN POINTS

Book flights or upgrade your room with accrued freebies. Also consider moving your desired dates to match points-available flights and rooms. "It helped me save thousands on my honeymoon," Ezon says. —Heidi Mitchell

SECLUDED B&B

A LUXURIOUS NORTHEAST ENCLAVE—WHERE NO DETAIL IS OVERLOOKED—IS JUST THE PLACE TO UNPLUG AND GET BACK TO NATURE

CLASSIC

Vermont's **Twin Farms** sets the standard for boutique luxury in New England. The sprawling campus has distinctly themed cabins: Studio has Whitney-worthy contemporary art, Log Cabin has wood-paneled walls and a Japanese *furo* soaking bath—and all are attended by an ultrahelpful staff. Want to arrange a canoe outing? A "forest bathing" spa treatment? A multicourse meal under the timber beams of the main house? Done, done, and done. *Rooms from \$1,500, all-inclusive.*

NEWCOMER

In the cool-again Catskills, the 38-room **Scribner's Catskill Lodge** feels like sleepaway camp for hipsters, who flock to its restaurant, Prospect, for dry-aged ribeye and matcha-flecked olive-oil ice cream. In summer, hike to waterfalls; in winter, ski at nearby Hunter Mountain. But year-round, evenings should end with deejayed beats and board games in the library lounge (midnight Taboo, anyone?) or a visit to the fire pit with your complimentary s'mores kit. *Rooms from \$145.*
—Brandon Presser



Don't miss the chocolate ganache with banana cake, smoked olive oil, and sunchoke ice cream at Prospect.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MICHAEL FILONOW/GALLERY STOCK; TIM HOUT, STYLING BY RENATE LINDLAR; COURTESY OF SCRIBNER'S CATSKILLS LODGE

GETAWAY



Try surfing on Oahu's Waikiki Beach, where the modern sport was born.

BEACH RESORT

WITH ITS UNIQUE BLEND OF URBAN BUZZ AND TROPICAL ZEN, OAHU'S WAIKIKI BEACH OFFERS MORE THAN JUST SAND AND SURF

CLASSIC

Halekulani means "house befitting heaven" in Hawaiian, and the hotel's white-on-white decor feels like just that—especially when you're relaxing poolside or indulging in a half-day couples retreat at Spa Halekulani. Have cocktails next to the *kiawe* tree at House Without a Key—as the nightly trio strums in the background—followed by French-with-a-Hawaiian-twist dishes at La Mer, a favorite of the Obamas. *Rooms from \$530.*

NEWCOMER

The earthy aesthetic at **'Alohilani** (think reclaimed wood and a muted palette) feels more like an airy beach house than an 839-room two-tower resort. Take a free surf lesson, sip brews in the tropical beer garden, and chill in a cabana—with butler service and a reflecting pool. Can't decide which of the two Morimoto restaurants to hit? Don't worry: You can have ramen one night and Pan-Asian the next. *Rooms from \$235.* —Michele Bigley

CITY ESCAPE

POST UP IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN—WITH MICHELIN-STARRED CUISINE AND CENTRAL PARK VIEWS—AND YOU'LL CAPTURE THE ROMANCE OF NEW YORK CITY

CLASSIC

The Plaza Hotel New York's claim to fame may be *Eloise*, its fictional six-year-old resident, but checking into your newly revamped suite—with sparkly chandeliers, plush bedding, and marble bathrooms—will make you feel all grown up. Fill your days with breakfast at the gourmet Todd English Food Hall (there are 23 different vendors), high tea at the Palm Court, cocktails at the Champagne Bar, and facials at the city's only Guerlain Spa. You'll feel little need to venture outdoors—except for leisurely strolls across the street into Central Park, of course. *Rooms from \$400.*

NEWCOMER

Firmdale Hotels is known for quirky-chic properties in London and the Crosby Street Hotel in SoHo, New York. Now the founders are bringing that aesthetic to Midtown with **the Whitby Hotel**. Every turn leads to a discovery, from works by emerging artists on the walls to landscaped terraces off the spacious suites and an honor-system bar in the first-floor lounge. After dinner at the dimly lit restaurant (we're calling it: best roasted Brussels sprouts in town), take your seat at the cinema for a screening of *Casablanca*, popcorn and wine in hand. *Rooms from \$695.* —Katie James

NOE DEWITT/TRUNK ARCHIVE

GETAWAY



Above: Cheese with pruned apples at the Restaurant at Meadowood. Right: A guest-room patio at Las Alcobas.



WINE COUNTRY RETREAT

WALKABLE ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA, IS FINALLY RIPE FOR A HONEYMOON IN SUN-SOAKED NAPA VALLEY

CLASSIC

A stay at **Meadowood, Napa Valley**, is like a trip into the pages of *The Great Gatsby*, with its shaker-shingle 85-room house overlooking a nine-hole golf course (no carts) and two croquet lawns (white attire only). Of course, the 250-acre estate has plenty of luxe modern amenities, like gaslit fireplaces, daily fitness classes, and the award-winning Restaurant at Meadowood. If you can't spring for Michelin-starred chef Christopher Kostow's 12-course tasting menu (\$275 per person), head to his new spot in town, the Charter Oak. Rooms from \$550.

NEWCOMER

The brand-new **Las Alcobas** wins for location alone: The 68 guest rooms and pool overlook the circa-1875 Beringer Vineyards, making it the only hotel where you can practically pick grapes from bed. Head out on a pair of bikes with a picnic basket prepared by celebrity chef Chris Cosentino, sip vintages in the bar/lounge, kick back on your fire-pit-outfitted balcony, and then pop into the barn-inspired spa, where treatments use all-natural products and the vibe is dark and moody. (C'mon, grooms, don't be shy.) Rooms from \$695. —H.M.

FROM TOP: ED ANDERSON/COURTESY OF THE RESTAURANT AT MEADOWOOD; COURTESY OF TRIPLE CREEK RANCH AND LAS ALCOBAS

DUDE RANCH

SNOW-GLOBE-LIKE WINTERS, WIDE-OPEN SUMMERY MEADOWS, LAID-BACK COUNTRY VIBES—HEAD TO THE AMERICAN WEST AND YOU'LL FEEL LIKE THE ONLY ONES FOR MILES

CLASSIC

Few guest ranches in Montana's Big Sky country can beat **Triple Creek Ranch**, with its 25 ponderosa-shaded cabins, each with a wood-burning fireplace and many with a private hot tub. After almost 25 years, the husband-and-wife owners are still passionate about pairing unforgettable outdoor exploits with all the hallmarks of an upscale adults-only resort: Romantic horseback rides through grassy foothills and rugged mountains are followed by seven-course meals at the Chef's Table. You can even pan for natural rough-cut sapphires—souvenirs to keep forever. Rooms from \$1,050 per couple, all-inclusive.

NEWCOMER

Ted Turner's Victorian-style estate, Casa Grande, is the newest addition to **Vermejo Park Ranch** in New Mexico. After four years of renovations, the gorgeous seven-bedroom home—with an enormous Great Room—now offers personalized lineups of traditional western activities, like hiking, horseback riding, archery, and fly-fishing. Head out for intimate wildlife viewing on 585,000 private acres—where bison, mountain lions, elk, and bears all roam. End each night with a lake-side picnic at sunset and stargazing around the campfire. Rooms from \$1,050 per couple, all-inclusive excluding alcohol. —Kathryn Romeyn

Spot bison on an "American safari" at Vermejo Park Ranch in New Mexico.

