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Wedding, but make it fashion

A NOTE FROM OUR GUEST EDITOR, BRIDAL EXPERT JESSICA MULRONEY
“Weddings are now a part of my DNA. I don’t just love them—I love everything about them. I love how they’ve evolved. I love the way trends spread and change but that the classic wedding and wedding dress will always be in style. I love everything from the engagement to the dress shopping, from the venue selection to the flowers. A wedding is a moment in time that can never be replaced, and even though the process can be hair-pulling and excruciating, the happiness that comes out of that day is unlike any other emotion. I wanted to give you a little insight into my approach to weddings and why I’m so obsessed with them. I hope you’ll enjoy this very special edition of *The Kit* enough to say ‘I do.’”

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Jessica Mulroney, photographed in her Toronto home by Kayla Rocca. Mulroney wears one of her signature suits (this one, by Veronica Beard) and a ring given to her by her twin boys when they were three. “They proposed to me!” Mulroney says, beaming at the memory.

Wow, voyager

Can you have an ultra-stylish destination wedding? Let Jessica Mulroney convince you

Jessica Mulroney knows weddings. She’s a bridal expert for *Good Morning America* and *CityLine*; she consults for Kleinfeld and Hudson’s Bay; and she’s the contributing editor for Wedding Vacations, Canada’s top platform for destination wedding planning. In her role with Wedding Vacations, Mulroney does everything from editing to organizing cover shoots with celeb couples. “There used to be an assumption that you couldn’t customize destination weddings to your personal style or have the Pinterest-worthy wedding of your dreams in the tropics, but that’s not the case,” says

Mulroney. Here, she shares her tips for planning a super-chic destination wedding.

WHY YOU SHOULD BOOK
“The entire planning process is a lot more laid-back than planning a wedding at home. Couples can spend the days before their wedding sipping margaritas poolside instead of stressing about place settings! Plus, I think couples are realizing that destination weddings can also be a lot more cost-effective than people think. Flying South can be easier

on your travel budget than flying coast-to-coast, and when you choose an all-inclusive resort, there’s no issue budgeting for meals or drinks. The best part, though, is spending all that quality time with your loved ones at a tropical resort. With weddings back home, you only have one day to spend with your family and friends, but with destination weddings, you have a whole week to make memories together in a spectacular setting.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Kleinfeld

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Featured Designer: Pnina Tornai, exclusively available at Kleinfeld Hudson's Bay. Style #4729

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Labour of love

The most romantic wedding-day accessory is a twist of petals and pearls

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIAH HAMILTON

Antonia Akai-Casuccio’s line of intricate, handmade crowns and hair vines started when she couldn’t find anything to wear on her wedding day 11 years ago. “Everything was either painfully boring and traditional, or in such a stratospheric price range that they weren’t realistic,” shares the designer, who now operates The Loved One from a studio and showroom in Toronto’s east end. Taking inspiration from her favourite haute couture masters—Alexander McQueen, Iris Van Herpen and Guo Pei—Akai-Casuccio sources mulberry-paper flowers from England and dips them in coloured wax. She then moulds and shapes the blooms before placing them onto her creations. Each piece can take up to a week to make, and Akai-Casuccio often works with brides to create a custom, one-of-a-kind design. Although they weren’t as on-trend (or as widely available) when the designer was a bride herself, today hair vines and crowns are becoming as popular as veils. “There’s something quite magical about wearing a piece in your hair, whether it’s a beautiful, simple flower or a more elaborate crown. You feel like a queen.” And doesn’t everyone want a royal wedding?
—Liz Guber



FROM LEFT: THE LOVED ONE HEADPIECES, \$329 AND \$589, THELOVEDONE.COM



FROM LEFT: THE LOVED ONE HEADPIECES, \$225 AND \$269, THELOVEDONE.COM

Top of the props

Finish your look with a dreamy (and Canadian!) bridal accessory



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TRUVELLE HEADPIECE, \$270, TRUVELLE.COM

NOON ON THE MOON HAIR COMBS (SET OF 3), \$165, NOONONTHEMOON.COM

Crème de la crème

This plumping moisturizer is so good, you might just propose to it

BY JENNIFER BERRY

I spent the better part of two decades complaining about my full cheeks. Oh, how I would moan to my mom about how round my face looked, to which the pint-sized no-nonsense Scottish lass would reply, “You’ll be thankful for those full cheeks when you’re older and things start to wrinkle!” Teenage-nightmare me would scream that parents just don’t understand and flail off in a daily tantrum—how could I think about old lady wrinkles when I had bras to stuff and crushes to call and hang up on?!—but, as with most things, she was right. I still wonder what it would be like to have cheekbones that could cut glass, and I always ask makeup artists to contour me a jawline when I have the privilege of getting professional makeup done, but sure enough, when I hit 30 and things started to just...drop (where do they go?!), I felt immeasurably grateful for these naturally buoyant cheeks of mine. And while they might be the last thing on my face to go south or adopt a crepe-like texture, I’m now more dedicated than ever to doing whatever I can to prolong their youthful plumpness. So without further ado, I’d like you to meet my new best friend, Tatcha The Dewy Skin Cream, a plumping moisturizer packed with mega-hydrating ingredients like hyaluronic acid, Okinawa Algae Blend and antioxidant-rich Japanese purple rice, all encompassed in a divine buttery texture. Somehow, this whipped, lilac-coloured crème manages to feel supremely light-weight on your skin while being insanely mois-

turizing. The first time I used it, I slathered it on with breathless excitement, as one does, and when I left the bathroom, my fiancé thought I had one of those gelatinous-looking sheet masks on. I was dewy on another level. I’ve since learned that a little goes an incredibly long way, which is always a plus for a luxury skincare product with a price tag to match. The cream is also non-comedogenic, non-irritating, cruelty-free and free from mineral oil, synthetic fragrances, parabens, phthalates and other not-so-nice ingredients. I’m telling you, this stuff is spun gold—or purple rice, as it were. After about a month of daily usage, you could bounce a penny off my cheek. I was even asked for ID at the liquor store on my birthday last month and almost had a stroke whilst attempting to tell the cashier she’d made my day/life/year/decade because I was nearly twice the legal drinking age. But beyond helping me maintain my face’s fullness and save my parched post-winter skin from total dehydration, this moisturizer gives me the dewiness of a gorgeous glazed donut. Apologies if you mistake my teenage cheeks for a Krispy Kreme original glazed the next time you see me—it’s not me, it’s the Tatcha.

“I was even asked for ID at the liquor store on my birthday last month.”



TATCHA THE DEWY SKIN CREAM, \$64, SEPHORA.COM

THE KIT X SCHWARZKOPF



Get Your Best Hair Ever This Wedding Season

Celeb hair guru Peter Butler has you covered with step-by-step tips

Celebrity hairstylist Peter Butler is the go-to stylist for Hollywood A-listers looking to get party-ready, so he knows how to dream up a look that is both eye-catching and quick to pull off. His guiding principle: Stay true to yourself. “A common misconception, especially for brides, is that you have to look dramatically different from your day-to-day,” says Butler. “It’s not the day to reinvent your look. Don’t get into an elaborate updo with lots of accessories if you normally wear your hair down; you want to recognize yourself when you look back at your photos.” Think Old Hollywood waves or a timeless royal wedding-worthy chignon. “Simple and elegant is the way to go,” says Butler. So whether you’re the bride or a guest this summer, here’s how to fall in love with your wedding-season hair.



My hair colour is hard to maintain in the summer. How can I keep it fresh and vibrant?

Whether you’re a guest or celebrating your very special day, there will be multiple events to attend. Butler suggests keeping your hair nourished and protected with the GLISS Color Guard line. “It pairs the repairing benefits of keratin with built-in UV filters to help keep your colour from fading.”
SHOP THE LOOK: GLISS Color Guard Shampoo, Conditioner and Treatment, \$9.99 each



How can I make sure my updo stays put all day and night?

“Great products are the foundation to keep hairstyles looking healthy and alive all day and night, which is just what you need for wedding season,” says Butler. And no matter what style you opt for, volume is key to a killer party look. Prep your hair with got2b Volumaniac mousse before blowing it out, then finish the look with got2b Volumaniac hairspray to keep your style in place from the arrival cocktails to the midnight feast.
SHOP THE LOOK: got2b Volumaniac Bodifying Mousse & Hairspray, \$9.99 each



What’s the one hair product I should keep in my clutch?

Butler suggests tucking a hair mascara or root-retouching spray into your clutch, so you will always be close-up ready. “They are the perfect way to do your own instant touch-ups when roots or grey strands show through.”
SHOP THE LOOK: Schwarzkopf Hair Mascara & Root Retoucher, \$15.99 each



What’s the easiest way to elevate my look for wedding season?

“Colour is a great way to amp things up,” suggests Butler. “Even if you are short on time, it’s easy to brighten your tone or cover grey roots with a salon-quality at-home hair colour kit.” Blondes can add warm caramel tones to create sexy depth, while brunettes can deepen their shade to create rich, lush dimension.
SHOP THE LOOK: Schwarzkopf Keratin Color, \$15.99 each

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE
at major retailers including
Walmart and Shoppers Drug Mart.
Visit schwarzkopf.ca



Aliya-Jasmine Sovani with her mother, Zaina, at Kleinfeld at Hudson's Bay. "My mom helped design my sister's dress and she has always talked about how she wants us to have a wedding dress we've always dreamed of."



Sovani in a "very Beverly Hills" Willowby gown. Below: Sovani's bridal fitting crew members Amanda Alvaro and Tanya Kim toast the bride. "I'm probably the least girly of our group and maybe the most jaded, but they really make me appreciate the small moments."

Finding the one

Aliya-Jasmine Sovani doesn't love clothes shopping. So the TV star enlisted her besties—including Jessica Mulroney—to help her find a dream wedding dress. Jillian Vieira goes inside the (beautiful, emotional, hilarious) fitting

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIAH HAMILTON

Aliya-Jasmine Sovani never had those white-dress-atop-a-three-tiered-wedding-cake ambitions. "I always joked that I'd probably end up adopting three kids and being common-law with some documentaryarian living in East Africa, saving elephants for a living," says the Ottawa-born, Los Angeles-based TV producer and host. Life panned out a bit differently after she met her now fiancé, Mike Bradwell, more than six years ago. The then Toronto Argonauts wide receiver went against her "no athletes" rule" (she was working on various sports TV programs at the time), but after he introduced himself at a breast cancer fundraiser as an engineer—he did technically have his degree from McMaster University—the pair exchanged numbers. Sovani's admitted ambivalence led to three cancelled first dates, but eventually she gave into his persistence, showing up to a neighbourhood pub wearing jogging pants and Uggs. "I ordered a beer and a shot of whisky, and Mike says that's when he fell in love with me," she says, laughing. "We ended up talking all night. There was so much complexity to him—he was so different from what he seemed." The two got engaged last winter on a family trip in the south of Spain and will tie the knot next year.



"I didn't think I'd like sparkle," says Sovani, posing in the first dress selected by Mulroney: an ethereal Ines di Santo.



Sovani in elegant Ines di Santo.

The morning after the couple's engagement party in early June, Sovani arrives for her first wedding dress appointment at Kleinfeld at Hudson's Bay, a place that holds special meaning for her family. In the 1970s, Sovani's teenage mother, Zaina, came to Canada as a refugee fleeing Uganda with only the clothes on her back. Later on, when Zaina was due to marry Sovani's father, she made a solo visit to Hudson's Bay and picked an off-the-rack wedding dress for \$200. "That was a lot of money for her at the time, so she said to my sister and me that she wanted us to have the wedding dresses we always dreamed of," says Sovani. "It's really full circle to have her here with me at this appointment." Some 40 years later, Sovani has her pick of more than 700 gowns—a daunting array for the red carpet regular. "I've been spoiled in the sense that for the last decade, when I've had to attend a dressed-up event, I walk into a room where a stylist has picked out pieces that will look good on me," she says. Luckily, she has sartorial direction from her

“Since I don’t like trying on clothes, I wanted this experience to be a bunch of girlfriends drinking champagne and laughing.”



Right: (From left, behind Sovani) Melissa Grelo and daughter Marquesa, Amanda Alvaro, Sabena Brennan, Zaina Sovani and Tanya Kim. Far right: the "controversial" caped look: "I can get caught up thinking about [clothes] as a red carpet moment, so I need my friends to check me a bit and be like, 'This is your wedding—it has to be timeless.'"



friend Jessica Mulroney, who consults for Kleinfeld at Hudson's Bay. "A bridal gown has to feel special and different from what she's worn in the past," says Mulroney. "I really wanted to find something she hasn't worn before."

Sovani's entourage, clad in white at the bride's request, is assembled to serve as a sounding board during the process. "Since I don't like trying on clothes, I wanted this experience to be a bunch of girlfriends drinking champagne and laughing—and our girls do that. I mean, our octaves are high," Sovani says, smiling. Her crew includes Toronto TV mainstays Melissa Grelo and Tanya Kim ("they really get the 'wow' factor"), PR and philanthropy maven Amanda Alvaro ("she's very timeless and conservative in her style approach") and two of Sovani's best childhood friends, Sabena Brennan and Elizabeth Goldspink ("I didn't cry; they both cried!").

The first dress chosen by Mulroney—a glittery, V-neck Ines di Santo with Grecian-like streamers flowing from the shoulder—elicits oohs from the group. "I didn't think I'd like the sparkle," says Sovani, who deems the gown a "good start." The next look is a departure from the expected bridal look: a "Hillary Clinton meets Wonder Woman" pant-suit, plus removable cape. "I really wanted to wear a cape, and Amanda was like, 'You're not wearing a cape to your wedding.'" She and Jess really wanted this to be timeless, and I really like that idea, too. So it's not my wedding look, but I do love it," she says, striking a power pose. A flashy, tulle Willowby dress covered in gold and silver sequined stars feels "very Beverly Hills," while another form-fitting Ines di Santo stuns with its collarbone-highlighting neckline, inching Sovani closer to her final gown.

Dress after dress, the appointment vibe remains light and airy, just as Sovani had imagined. Between reveals, each member of the crew takes to the bridal podium to tell jokes stand-up style, making Grelo's young daughter Marquesa giggle. Then, Sovani floats out in The One: a romantic (and for now, secret!) off-the-shoulder gown with ruched detailing from Toronto-based designer Romona Keveza. Everyone turns starry-eyed, including the bride.

"This is what Mike has always dreamed of," Sovani says as she admires herself in the three-way mirror. "What Mike has always dreamed of is inside that dress," says her mom. Cue the tears.



Modern wedding decor at the Pop Up Chapel in Toronto.



Disrupting “I do”

The year's most buzzworthy wedding trends prove that modern nuptials need to be equal parts beauty and substance

BY JEN O'BRIEN

Forget blush versus burgundy or roses versus ranunculus—these days, much bigger considerations are shaping modern wedding trends. Fuelled by millennials, conversations around social responsibility, inclusivity and sustainability are turning the wedding industry on its head.

"People are getting married later in life, so they're not as bound by tradition," explains bridal expert Jessica Mulroney. "Often these couples are paying for [the wedding] themselves, and they want to put their own stamp on it instead of being restricted by how their parents think a wedding should be planned."

Here are the three most exciting emerging wedding trends Mulroney believes are poised to become marital movements.

THE POP-UP WEDDING

Think of pop-up weddings as nuptial all-in-one kits pre-packaged to perfection. They offer the full bridal experience in a condensed amount of time for a fraction of the price.

Lynzie Kent founded Pop Up Chapel Canada in 2017 when she noticed a gap in the wedding industry between increasingly popular city hall ceremonies and traditional banquet centre celebrations.

"Millennials and Gen Z couples are showing a different set of values when it

comes to life planning," says Kent, who also runs Love by Lynzie Events + Design.

When couples sign up to participate in Kent's chapels, they agree to split an impeccably decorated venue, and their wedding day, with a number of other couples that they'll never see. A \$2,500 fee covers private use of the venue for an hour, personal flowers, live music, an officiant, a photographer and a celebratory toast for up to 20 guests with \$300 going to charity. Along with the location, decor themes and vendors, the charities change with each pop-up. Kent says she has five sold-out chapels for the rest of 2019 and 10 more planned for 2020. She cites ease and affordability as central to the pop-up appeal. "There's no planning involved—couples literally show up and get married. It's also inexpensive: A ton of our couples are saving for travel, mortgages or babies."

That's a trend that Mulroney is familiar with. "Couples choose to spend less on a wedding, and as a result need to be creative with what they spend." Kent prides herself on the conceptualization that goes into planning each pop-up, ensuring the spaces are outfitted with all the trimmings of a party that's typically at least 10 times the price.

THE ZERO-WASTE WEDDING

This might be the year confetti sales slump

as more couples realize the "best day of their life" could also potentially be the most wasteful.

With the zero-waste movement going mainstream, eco-conscious celebrations are becoming increasingly popular. Pinterest reports a 181 per cent surge in searches for sustainable wedding ideas since 2018.

It should come as no surprise that in a time when many people are toting their own straws and coffee cups to the office that they may question spending thousands of dollars on single-use garments and flowers that will go in the garbage at the end of the night.

"People still want pretty flowers at weddings and events, but hopefully the single-use-straight-to-landfill days are over," says Kalynn Crump, founder of Calgary- and Toronto-based ReBloom. ReBloom repurposes event flowers—picking them up and redesigning them into smaller, bedside table arrangements and delivering them to a seniors' home, hospice, cancer treatment centre, mental health facility or shelter of the couple's choosing. Once the flowers have been enjoyed, ReBloom returns to collect them for composting. (Gwyneth Paltrow used a similar floral recycler for her recent low-key wedding to Brad Falchuk.) Crump's ReBloom service comes at a cost (fees start at \$800 and are based on

the size and scale of the event's floral plan), but Crump says beyond the environmental payoff, most couples see the value in being able to spread the joy of their wedding day. As she puts it, "To give flowers to someone who truly feels forgotten...their smile, their gratitude, it gets you right in your heart and that feeling will never leave you."

THE PROGRESSIVE WEDDING

The backstories to some of the wedding world's most time-honoured traditions are actually pretty cringe-worthy. The garter toss? That was originally to offer proof of consummation to the drunken horde of wedding guests outside the honeymoon suite. The best man? He was the guy grooms turned to when they wanted to steal a woman from a neighbouring community. Add to this the "giving away" of the bride and vows that reference a lifetime of servitude, and you begin to see why couples are re-examining established traditions.

"We see millennials questioning if their parents lives are what they truly want, from buying property to staying with the same employer for decades, so it's no surprise that they are re-envisioning weddings as well," says Maggie Barton Baird, owner and lead planner of Edmonton-based MB&Company.

Barton Baird says gendered wedding parties, cake cutting and traditional vows are among the outdated conventions couples are most eager to overhaul. Vows are particularly contentious: "I've had couples ask me to go through the script and suggest alterna-

tive language that doesn't create any power dynamic or hierarchy between them." Millennials, she says, are generally willing to leave out anything that doesn't add substance to the celebration. "Couples are actively thinking about the way their day will feel for both themselves and the guests," says Barton Baird. "It isn't about checking off the boxes in a wedding planning guide;

it's about creating an experience." Mulroney agrees, and credits social media with helping to turn tradition on its head. "Seeing that others are choosing to plan more unique weddings gives couples encouragement to find ways to express themselves—and their celebration—in their own way."

“Couples want to put their own stamp on their weddings.”

—Jessica Mulroney



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Wow, voyager

CONTINUED FROM COVER

HOW TO PACK

Pack classic pieces that you can dress up or down. Check the itinerary to see if there are any special themed events (like white parties) that you'll need to pack a special outfit for and make sure to pack a fancier outfit for the ceremony/reception. Try to stick to breathable, flowy fabrics so you don't melt under the heat of the tropical sun!

WHAT TO WEAR

One of the nicest things about destination weddings is you can wear any sort of dress you want. If you're looking for something more boho chic or an all-out glam princess look, any dress looks beautiful with a tropical locale as your backdrop. A few of the bridal trends I'm seeing a lot of right now are high necklines (which pair gorgeously with open backs), minimalist dresses with streamlined silhouettes and clean lines and—for the more dramatic bride—capés instead of veils! They're a very chic alternative to the classic veil look.

WHERE TO GO

If you have kids on the guest list, there are plenty of family-friendly resorts in Cancun. If you're planning an adults-only wedding, the nightlife scene there is unbeatable—a bonus for any couples who are hosting their bachelor/bachelorette parties in their wedding destination! With its breathtaking beaches, Jamaica is perfect for couples and guests who like to get out and explore their chosen resort. There is an amazing range of experiences to try, from hiking up Dunn's River Falls to sailing on a catamaran to dining at the legendary Rick's Cafe. Cuba is another destination wedding favourite with its vibrant culture and perfect weather. You can say 'I do' on a beautiful beach or in a lush garden gazebo surrounded by leafy palms. The iconic city of Havana is a must for your destination wedding week excursion—the city is celebrating its 500th anniversary in November and would make the perfect backdrop for wedding photos.

MAKE IT MODERN

With a few on-trend tweaks to tradition, writes **Jessica Mulroney**, you can make your destination wedding one for the books

THE DRINKS

Personalized cocktails are a great way to incorporate your unique couple style into your destination wedding. Since drinks are included at all-inclusive resorts, it's also a very budget-friendly way to personalize your wedding.

THE GUESTBOOK

Unique guestbooks are a beautiful memento of your big day. Instead of guests signing a traditional book, we're seeing couples opt for more personalized guestbook alternatives, from globes to puzzles to Polaroid albums.

THE VENUE

While the beach is always a popular venue, a lot of couples are opting for other interesting locations. Try a glamorous sky deck, a lush green garden or a luxurious off-site villa.

THE DECOR

Rustic decor elements are being incorporated more and more into destination weddings. On the furniture front, I'm seeing a lot of wooden tables and chairs. I also love wild greenery and mercury candle votives.



“With destination weddings, you have a whole week to make memories together,” says Jessica Mulroney.

INSIDE THREE OF MY MOST MEMORABLE DESTINATION WEDDINGS

TRACY MOORE AND LIO PERRON

I loved working on Tracy Moore's vow renewal a few years ago at Royalton Riviera Cancun Resort and Spa. She's a good friend of mine, so it was really special to be able to officiate her ceremony with her husband and two children. It took place on a beautiful rooftop overlooking the Caribbean Sea, with a private dinner just for the four of them, while a Mariachi band played."



COLIN MCALLISTER AND JUSTIN RYAN

Colin and Justin's vow renewal took place at Hotel Xcaret Mexico, a stunning resort bordered by lush jungle in Riviera Maya, Mexico. The area is known for its cenotes—literally translated, that means sinkholes. The resort has its own cave that has been converted into a unique wedding venue. The couple had their reception there and it was truly one-of-a-kind.



BOBBIE CASE-AKINS AND ALONZO VALLECILLO

Bobbie and Alonzo, the winners of our *Good Morning America* and *Wedding Vacations* contest, are such a special couple. They met in the military on deployment in Iraq and started dating when they returned home. They got married in a park in jeans before welcoming their first son, Lucas, who was diagnosed with a rare genetic growth disorder, Russell-Silver syndrome. Helping to plan their dream wedding at Royalton Punta Cana Resort and Casino was such a special experience and one I'll never forget.



SHOW TIME

BLOORYORKVILLE

From fashion and food, to wellness and culture, it's always #BYTIME

A stylish weekend in Annapolis

Krystin Lee of Suburban Faux-Pas shares the highlights from her recent visit to Maryland’s capital city

My weekend jaunt to this charming city started with an easy one-hour, direct flight on **Air Canada** from Toronto Pearson to BWI Airport. What I found there was sweeping harbour views of the Chesapeake Bay, chic boutiques, friendly locals and scrumptious food. Wondering if I'd be interested in visiting again? With a half tackled to-do list and a craving for some Maryland crab, I'm already plotting another weekend getaway before the end of the year! Read on for my favourite things from my trip to Annapolis.



WHERE TO EAT

Preserve on Main Street was first on my list for brunch—it's a local spot priding itself on sustainable products. I feasted on potato and onion frittata and banh mi. The best side dish at this restaurant? The locals one table over who were eager to assist with my must-do list.

As per their advice, happy hour at **Sailor Oyster Bar** was non-negotiable. Oysters are a no-brainer, but the Maryland Crab Toast and Potato Salad were equally scrumptious. Intriguingly, the kitchen operates with just a blow torch and toaster oven for meal prep. Afterwards, I moseyed over to **Vin 909 Winecafé** for a casual dinner. The pizza offerings, wine list and desserts were impressive and well worth the wait.

Brunch at the **Iron Rooster** on Sunday was an event I'd pencilled in early on. Considering locals were willing to line up outside in the pouring rain, I knew I was in for a treat. The Bloody Mary was perfection, then the chicken and waffles and crab hash bowl practically had me licking the plates clean. And don't get me started on the freshly baked pop tart. You can't come here and not order one—or two for the table.



WHERE TO STAY

After a long day of work and travel, I spent my first night in the BWI region. With an outlet mall and restaurants nearby, it's the perfect spot to get settled. **The Hotel at Arundel Preserve** featured oversized suites and a surplus of amenities, and felt like anything but an airport hotel.

On Saturday morning, a short Uber ride landed me in the heart of Annapolis. My remaining stay was at **The Westin Annapolis**—a property I loved. Centrally located, it boasts features like an in-house coffee shop, Workout Your Way (you can have fitness gear delivered to your room) and a 24-hour heated pool. Best of all: you can borrow cruiser bikes for exploring town!

WHERE TO SHOP

Walk south on Main Street towards the water and you'll pass a range of interesting local boutiques. Favourites that caught my eye were **Lilac Bijoux**, **The Pink Crab** and **Brightside Boutique**. **Zachary's Jewelers** by the water is the perfect spot to pick out a keepsake from your travels.



WHERE TO WANDER

I walked off Sunday brunch by roaming up and down the side streets, admiring charming houses and buildings dating back to the 1800s and earlier.

As you approach Main Street, you can't help but notice Maryland State House—it makes for quite the picturesque scene along with the brick-lined streets and architecture.



WHAT TO DO

If there's one set of plans you make during your stay in Annapolis, it must be a sailing excursion with **Schooner Woodwind Sailing**.

There's nothing like seeing this city from the harbour. Be sure to try the Seas by the Bay IPA on board—it's one of only two venues that serve it.



TO PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP TO ANNAPOLIS, GO TO VISITANNAPOLIS.ORG



Dress codes

So you RSVPed “yes.” Now it’s time to plan a perfectly on-point look. Style editor **Liz Guber** has you covered for any kind of summer wedding

THE CLASSIC WEDDING

A wrap dress is the epitome of effortless elegance. Stand out from the crowd by opting for an unusual shade, like orchid. A matchy-matchy bag and pearl accents look timeless and trendy all at once.



ART DEALER DRESS, \$526, ARTDEALER.COM. YUUN EARRINGS, \$224, YUUN.STUDIO. CULT GAIA BAG, \$585, FARFETCH.COM. THE ROW SHOES, \$1,000, HOLTRENFREW.COM.

THE BRUNCH WEDDING

The cheeriness of a yellow dress knows no bounds. Dress it up with strappy sandals and look-at-me earrings in a complementary shade for a modern daytime wedding look.



STAUD DRESS, \$393, STAUD.CLOTHING. BIRKS EARRINGS, \$995, MAISONBIRKS.COM. VANIA BAG, \$653, NET-A-PORTER.COM. REFORMATION SANDALS, \$291, THEREFORMATION.COM

THE DESTINATION WEDDING

The oversized, graphic print feels beachy without looking too laid-back. Dial up the accessories with oversized earrings and playful textures. As for shoes? Skip the heels for something a little more walkable.



MARA HOFFMAN DRESS, \$700, BONADRAG.COM. LIZZIE FORTUNATO EARRINGS, \$293, LIZZIEFORTUNATO.COM. LOEFFLER RANDALL BAG, \$464, SHOPBOP.COM. MARC CAIN SLIDES, \$390, MARCCAIN.COM

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THE KIT X MCDONALDS

A Late-Night Feast To Remember

Why McDelivery is the ultimate wedding treat

We know that the most important ingredients for a perfect wedding are simple: love, family, friends and fun. But wedding planning often becomes overwhelming; there’s so much to do, so many decisions to make and so many emotions sweeping us along. No matter how many Pinterest boards you create, it’s easy to lose focus on the special details your friends and family will actually remember. (Hint: It’s probably not the monogrammed napkins you spent a month organizing.)

Luckily, the latest wedding trend is also a stress-free way to refuel friends and family and bring a smile to their faces: Delivering their favourite late-night cravings right to the dance floor. And there’s no midnight craving like a McDonald’s craving. It’s the unexpected and oh-so-satisfying gesture that says, “I know you were planning to hit the drive-thru on the way home like a celebrity after an awards show, so let me take care of that for you!”

Ordering McDelivery is a power move that will keep your party going well into the night—but the best part is that it’s so easy to pull off. All your fave McDonald’s menu items can be delivered straight to the party via SkipTheDishes or Uber Eats. (The only exception is soft-serve cones, but yes, you can dig into a McDouble on your wedding night!) All you have to do is sign into your Uber Eats app up to six days before your big day (or four days ahead on SkipTheDishes) and pre-order

enough Chicken Nuggets, Big Macs or Cheeseburger to make jaws drop.

Fun fact: A wedding party once ordered over 250 McNuggets to fuel the dance floor! And with more than 800 locations in Canada offering McDelivery, there’s sure to be one near your venue. (Check out mcdonalds.ca/mcdeliverycanada for details.)

Because while the vows are for you, the party that goes down after the dinner plates are cleared? That’s for your guests. So deliver a feel-good treat to your loved ones who are busy making memories that will last a lifetime.



A night to remember How one bride wowed her guests at midnight

When fashion stylist Talia Brown was planning her Toronto wedding, she wanted to delight her 240 guests with fun, considered details. So, she arranged a McDelivery of 120 Cheeseburgers, 200 Chicken McNuggets and a bevy of dipping sauces to her reception at the classic Omni King Edward Hotel. “We fed our guests very well but at midnight, when McDonald’s arrived, you would’ve thought that they had been starving for days!” says Brown. “Everyone loves McDonald’s for late night because it is so fun and familiar.”

Share your own late-night feast using #McDelivery
Instagram and Twitter: @mcdonaldscanada
Facebook: @McDonaldsCanada



SKIN DEEP

Embrace the skin you're in with Gillette Venus

It'll come as no surprise that 90 per cent of Canadian women aged 18 to 50 say that society puts pressure on us to have “flawless” skin. Gillette Venus surveyed 250 Canadian women and confirmed what we already know, because we've all had those vulnerable skin moments: desperately trying to disguise cellulite at the beach, grimacing at a newfound stretch mark, or eschewing certain sundresses or swimsuits that might reveal a deep scar. It's why the brand has launched the #MySkinMyWay campaign, which celebrates every woman and every type of skin. The campaign smashes those unrealistic expectations and commits to honouring all skin stories going forward. In the same spirit, meet three Canadian women who defy “perfect” skin conventions yet have chosen to love—and honour—the skin they're in.

JILLIAN

What has your experience with skin “imperfections” been?

“When I was a child, I developed a skin condition on my upper leg that resembles very intensified cellulite. It caused a lot of insecure moments at pool parties and the beach. After many years, I've come to think of the markings as something that's distinctly me.”

What's one thing you would tell your younger self to help her on this journey? “I would say to her that no one is looking at it through a magnifying glass like you are. We're always hardest on ourselves, so it's important to lean on the love and support from friends and family who accept you for you, no matter what you think about yourself in fleeting moments. It's advice I still try to take today.”

How do we create a world where every woman can feel confident in the skin she's in?

“I think it's about tearing down the idea that ‘perfection’ exists anywhere. Who decides what an imperfection is, anyway? I think it's cool that Gillette Venus is participating in this conversation. It's like we're all in this together.”

HATTIE

What is the significance behind your scars? “These scars literally saved my life. I have a scar that goes across my bra line from a double lung transplant almost 10 years ago, as well as more scars all over my body related to the surgery and other medical conditions. When you have a scar, people ask, ‘What happened? What's the story?’ Conversations like these build connections between us.”

How did your scars affect your self-confidence? “Right after my transplant, I wouldn't wear certain pieces of clothing because my scars were still new. I held myself back, and that takes a toll on you. I really like what's coming out of this new wave of positivity, seeing all these different bodies. I think it's better for our mental health if we don't have the expectation that what's underneath our clothing will be perfect.”

How have you moved past “perfection anxiety” when comparing yourself to others on social media? “I've really started seeking out people who present their truest form and are totally cool with it. I try to follow those kinds of accounts so I constantly have that reminder. After my transplant, I realized that life is way too short to care about what people think.”



ARIANNE

What has the journey to feeling good in your skin looked like?

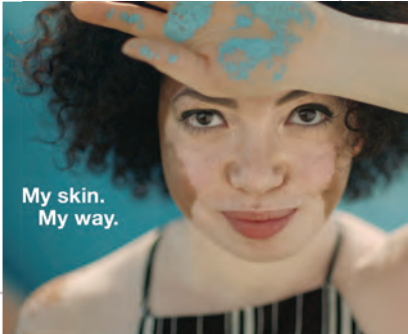
“When stretch marks appeared on my chest and back as a pre-teen, I felt a little betrayed by my body. I wanted to wear midriff-baring tops but wouldn't let myself do that. Later on, I thought about tattooing over them. Now, I feel profoundly changed—it feels like I've really moved on from it.”

How do you support body and skin positivity in your own community? “I am a huge advocate for being impactful in small ways, among your friends. If you're being unrealistic or hurtful to yourself, we won't let you do that. We can hold you accountable to yourself. It's amazing that with social media, we now have a space to take this private message between friends public.”

Why is it significant for a brand like Gillette Venus to explore this topic? “It's important to promote this message for the folks that might not have had these conversations. And to recognize the people who are affected when we treat everyone as if one size fits all. I feel good supporting a brand that encourages the conversations that are meaningful to us.”

HEAD TO THEKIT.CA TO WATCH THE POWERFUL #MYSKINMYWAY VIDEO

Gillette Venus



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