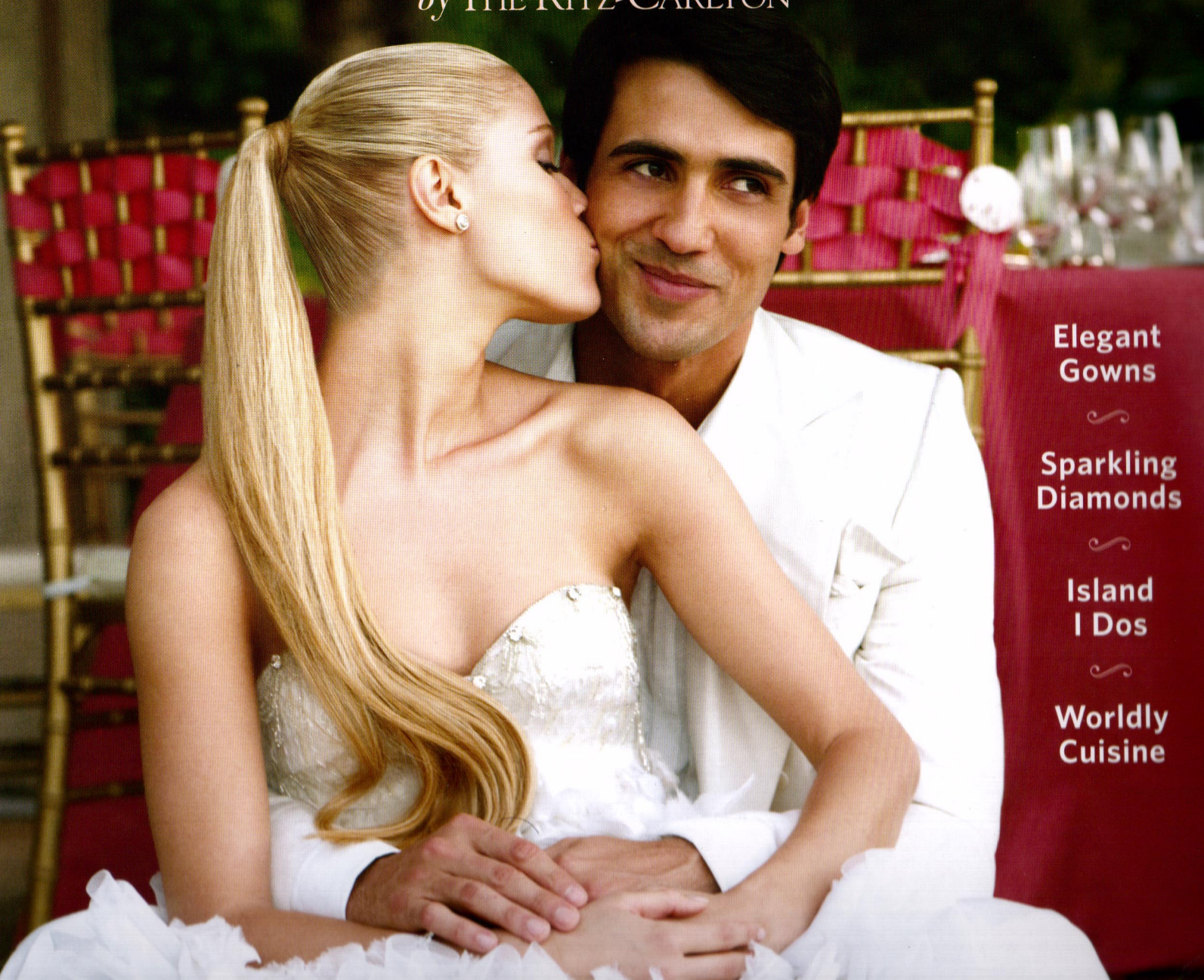


WEDDINGS

by THE RITZ-CARLTON



Elegant
Gowns



Sparkling
Diamonds

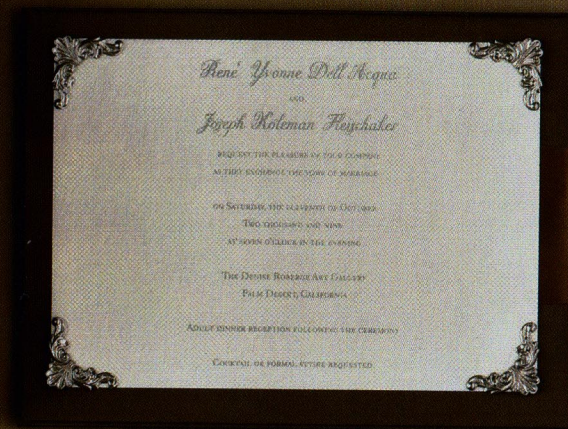


Island
I Dos



Worldly
Cuisine

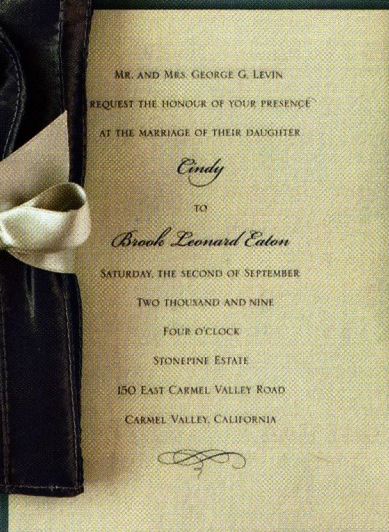
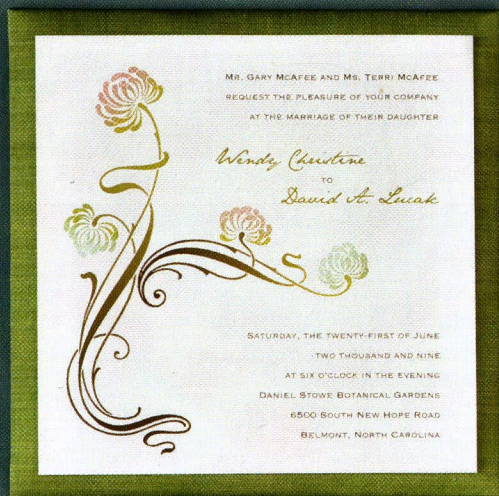
This trio of opulent choices is for couples who like their tradition with a twist. **Clockwise from top left:** Satin-wrapped Thai silk box is fastened with a Swarovski clasp and unfolds to a framed invitation, by Rock Paper Scissors Design (rockpaperscissorsdesign.com); slender folio of pearl-studded silk is wrapped in pearlized tissue and sealed with a custom monogram, from Alia Designs (aliadesigns.com); square invitation embellished with a monogram and ribbon, by Viriya (idealoungegroup.com).



Please Join Us

IT'S THE OPENING NOTE FOR THE CELEBRATION
OF A LIFETIME. MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL AND YOUR
OWN, SETTING THE MOOD FOR ALL TO COME

A new generation of invitations sets the bar high for unexpected creativity and a "wow" response. Clockwise from top left: Art nouveau invitation is mounted on a silk panel, with RSVP and other inserts tucked inside a back pocket, from Alia Designs (aliadesigns.com); couture touches converge in an enchanting box of embroidered shantung with coordinating enclosures, from Hannah Handmade (hannahhandmade.com); stylish trifold folio of tucked taffeta encloses a museum-board invitation, from RedBliss (redbliss.com).



"MAKE IT GORGEOUS" AND "MAKE IT YOURS" ARE THE TWIN MANTRAS OF BREAK-THE-MOLD COUPLES. "WHETHER IT'S A DEPARTURE FROM CLASSIC IVORY INTO THE BOLD REALM OF COLOR, OR THE ADDITION OF AN EMBROIDERED SILK BOX IN PLACE OF AN ENVELOPE SET," SAYS ANDREA LISS OF HANNAH HANDMADE, "COUPLES ARE LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WAYS TO INCORPORATE THEIR COLOR PALETTE AND INDIVIDUALITY INTO THEIR INVITATIONS."

Expert Advice

Does your wedding have you wondering about proper invitation etiquette? **Anna Post**, of the Emily Post Institute and author of *Do I Have to Wear White?: Emily Post Answers America's Top Wedding Questions* resolves your quintessential nuptial quandaries.

Q Can you be creative with your invitations while still observing proper etiquette? Invitations get very creative these days. If you like this, rest assured you are not violating etiquette if your invitation does away with some of the pieces traditionally included in an invitation. Just make sure your guests are still getting all the information they need. That would be proper etiquette.

Q What should newly-weds know about thank-you notes? Brides-to-be should not use their married monogram until after their wedding day. It's not your name yet. It's not your monogram yet. This is an older point of etiquette, but it still holds true.

Q What should never be included in the invitation? Mention of attire (even if you're looking to have a black-tie wedding) should never come up. The

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Brides go wild, brides go funky, and lots go for eye-popping fun designs. **Clockwise from top left:** Luscious fuschia silk case opens to letter-pressed invitation and inserts, from Alia Designs (aliadesigns.com); bright yellow plexi in a glam graffiti mode stamps a couple's big moment in time, from Ceci New York, Couture Style (cecineewyork.com); "girls only" bachelorette invite comes in paisley trimmed with fuschia feathers, from Praez Occasions (praezoccasions.com).

