

COOL SERVICE

GOT YOU COVERED

You can't fool Mother Nature, but you can certainly outwit her with chic umbrellas from Seattle-based [BELLA UMBRELLA](#). Rain or shine, Bella's feminine, fun and sassy umbrellas — more than 800 currently available — make for whimsical beachside wedding props. Owner Jodell Egbert started collecting after her own outdoor wedding 12 years ago. Since then, the former floral designer has amassed the world's largest collection of vintage umbrellas, from ruffled parasols to hand-painted Japanese stick umbrellas. Egbert also developed her own signature line, including the hot-magenta parasol used in *Sex and the City 2*. Looking for several matching umbrellas for your 'maids? Many styles, even some of the vintage ones, come in multiples. *Rentals from \$10 each for a four-day weekend; ship domestically.* — Pam Grout





WEAR THIS

dressed for success

Three of our favorite gown designers are introducing beach-ready lines that are easy on the eyes — and wallet.

1 WHITE BY VERA WANG Debuted exclusively at David's Bridal and priced accordingly (from \$600 to \$1,400), this line is pure Vera — think 100 yards of tulle — without the steep price tag. Styles range from chic, packable sheaths to ballgowns inspired by the wedding dresses she designed for Ivanka Trump and Chelsea Clinton.

2 MONIQUE LHUILLIER BRIDESMAIDS These 26 gowns (priced between \$275 and \$395) feature the fresh details for which the designer is known, like corset bodices and immaculate draping that flatters the body. Bonus: Fourteen of the 26 styles are cocktail-length, perfect for keeping cool in the heat.

3 DISNEY FAIRY TALE WEDDINGS BY ALFRED ANGELO The nine storybook frocks in this line (from \$599 to \$1,599) are based on eight Disney princesses but designed for the grown-up girl. We especially love the Jasmine halter-neck sheath (pictured), thanks to its sexy silhouette and far-flung feel. — *Ivette Manners*

MEXICO

condo celebración

Opened February 2010, Playa del Carmen's **EL TAJ CONDO HOTEL** is a perfect choice for wedding groups, thanks to its 41 Balinese-theme suites with multiple bedrooms, full kitchens, private terraces — even rooftop whirlpool tubs. Exchange vows on the sand, then celebrate under lantern-hung palms at El Taj's posh Indigo Beach Club. Later, head to 5th Avenue — Playa's main drag, within easy walking distance — to fiesta into the wee hours at various clubs. For groups, the staff can arrange eco-adventures like ATV excursions with Punta Venado, freshwater snorkeling at Xel-Ha water park or visits to Tulum to admire ancient Maya temples with stunning cliffside views. *Rooms from \$235; Romance wedding package free (minimum requirements apply).* — *Sarah Larson*



ANI VILLAS, BOTTOM LEFT: AUDREY ST. CLAIR EMERGENCY KIT; LORI BARRELY



ANGUILLA

PRIVATE PERCH

Travel to the Caribbean, and you might expect a private pool or a private hot tub, but a private cliff? Opened in January 2011 on posh Anguilla, **ANI VILLAS'** sleek side-by-side estates are the only signs of life on this dramatic drop-off overlooking pristine Little Bay. Rent one or both five-bedroom villas (combined, they sleep 24), and receive full access to all amenities, from spa services to a personal concierge who will work with your chosen planner to coordinate with vendors both on-island and stateside. Say I do beneath a tent on the specially created wedding platform

at cliff's edge, where 40 guests can gather for a sit-down dinner. Plus, marry at the villas, and receive 25 percent off the going rate for up to a week on your anniversary, for life, including champagne and a private catered dinner for two. Take the island wedding up a notch, literally — no sand between your toes, just lots of travertine marble and the ultimate in exclusivity. *Five-bedroom villa from \$30,000 weekly (entire estate from \$51,000 weekly), including breakfast, all drinks, private speedboat transfer, one SUV rental per villa and chef services.* — *Audrey St. Clair*

GET THIS

mighty mini

DWH has long been a fan of **MS. & MRS.'** wedding survival kits. Now this clever company has given us reason to heart them even more: new Minimergency kits, teeny enough to easily pack into your suitcase. Each set contains 20 key items. Bride and bridesmaid packs come in silver, gold, pink and aquamarine and boast lifesavers such as hair spray, earring backs and bobby pins; guys kits are packed in metal tins and feature tools like shoeshine, deodorant and faux wedding bands in case the real things got left behind. *Guys kits \$12; ladies kits \$16.* — *Erika Hueneke*



JAMAICA

A REAL GEM

Things have brightened up in Ocho Rios ever since the **JEWEL DUNN'S RIVER BEACH RESORT & SPA** opened in September 2010, in the former Sandals Dunn's River Resort complex. It's still an all-inclusive, but that's about all the property hasn't changed from its former incarnation, from offering all-new restaurants and spa services to completely refreshing the 250 guest rooms. Set on 25 acres, the adults-only escape boasts seven picturesque ceremony sites, including the most popular: a rotunda perched directly over the beach. New wedding packages include classic violinists or lively steel-drum players — and there's even a professional photography studio on site. *Rooms from \$469 per couple, all-inclusive; wedding packages from \$600.* — *Amy Cassell*



THE BAHAMAS

OUT OF SIGHT

Fantasizing about marrying off the grid but worried about the availability of wedding goods and services in a remote locale? Look to **ABACO BEACH RESORT**, comprising 89 oceanfront rooms, suites, cottages and residences. The resort can realize any bridal vision, but with a location on Great Abaco — home to only one stoplight — it still feels worlds away. Say I do on the property's private beach, then celebrate in a large oceanfront white marquee with live rake 'n' scrape music and flowing Goombay Smashes (the Bahamas' signature drink). Pastimes around the resort center on the water, from fishing and snorkeling to the Abacos' biggest must-do: island-hopping from port to port. Hire a captain and take the gang to outposts like Tahiti Beach and Hope Town, site of the iconic Elbow Reef Lighthouse. *Rooms from \$290; wedding packages from \$1,565. — EH*



SERVE THIS

bottoms up

Searching for a signature drink for your do? Get inspired with our favorite cocktail-recipe books for beach bashes. — EH



Tropical Cocktails Deck: 50 Sun-Kissed Drink Recipes, by Mittie Hellmich, \$13.95

A deck of sultry sips, including old favorites, tropical martinis and inventive exotic mixes, printed individually on glossy cards.

KEY LIME MARTINI

- chilled cocktail glass rimmed with superfine sugar
- 1½ oz. high-quality gin
- 1 oz. orange liqueur
- 1½ oz. fresh Key lime juice
- 1 tsp. superfine sugar
- thinly sliced lime wheel

Shake the liquid ingredients and sugar vigorously with ice. Strain into the prepared glass. Garnish by floating the lime wheel on top.



The Little Black Book of Cocktails: The Essential Guide to New & Old Classics, by Virginia Reynolds, \$9.95

More than 150 timeless concoctions bound in a packable, pocket-size volume and organized into sections like Urban Chic, From the Tropics and Naughty Drinks.

HURRICANE

- 1 oz. light rum
- 1 oz. dark rum
- ½ oz. passion-fruit syrup
- ½ oz. fresh lime juice
- 1½ oz. fresh orange juice
- 1½ oz. pineapple juice
- dash bitters

Mix all in a cocktail shaker with cracked ice, and strain into a chilled wineglass. Garnish with fresh fruit.



101 Margaritas, by Kim Haasarud, \$15.95

Margarita variations for every season and mood, from classic (frozen strawberry) to unexpected (sweet ginger).

MOJITA RITA

- ¾ lime, cut into quarters
- 5 to 6 mint leaves
- 1 tsp. light brown sugar
- ½ oz. water
- 1½ oz. tequila
- 1 oz. Cointreau
- ¾ cup crushed ice

Mash together the quartered lime, mint leaves, brown sugar and water in a glass until the mint leaves start to bruise. Add the tequila, Cointreau and ice. Stir very well, bringing the mint leaves to the top and dissolving all the sugar. Serve immediately.



Hawaiian Tropical Cocktails: Created with the Fruits of the Islands, by Mark Sullivan, \$24.95

90 recipes broken up by key Hawaiian ingredient, such as guava, poi and Kona coffee.

PASSIONATE MAI TAI

- 2 oz. fresh lilikoi juice
- ½ oz. simple syrup
- 1½ oz. gold rum
- ½ oz. amaretto
- ½ oz. orange curaçao
- 1 oz. lemon juice
- ½ oz. dark rum

Pour all the ingredients except the dark rum into a shaker glass with ice. Shake once, and pour the entire concoction into a 14 oz. double old-fashioned glass. Float the dark rum, and garnish with a maraschino cherry and bamboo orchid.



It's 5 o'clock Somewhere: The Global Guide to Fabulous Cocktails, by Colleen Mullaney, \$17.95

A cornucopia of 60-plus libations originating in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa and beyond — plus a playlist suggestion for every potation.

BEACHCOMBER (serves four)

- 8 oz. vodka
- 4 oz. banana liqueur
- 4 oz. pear nectar
- ½ oz. lemon juice
- fresh ginger, peeled and thinly sliced, for garnish

In a cocktail shaker or pitcher, mix all of the ingredients. Pour into glasses filled with crushed ice, garnish with ginger and serve.