

NEW YORK Weddings

WINTER 2015
SPECIAL ISSUE



**THE
ESSENTIAL
GUIDE**

Go Big! Or Not. Venues from a 1,500-person factory to a cozy B&B **p. 134**

Stunner Gowns (some under \$500) **p. 95**

Bleeding Bouquets **p. 112** / **Really Big Cakes** **p. 124**

AND Where to Keep the Party Going **p. 150**

ALSO Me and My Bra By Jessica Silvester **p. 60**

**PLUS
THE BEST**

*Caterers, Dresses,
Jewelers, Florists,
D.J.'s, Honeymoons,
Custom Piñatas*



From Aisle to Isle

*Islands where you crazy kids can kayak with beluga whales,
bathe in a cenote, or just lie out by the infinity pool.*

BY ASHLEA HALPERN



IPO PIPE DREAM

Tetiaroa, French Polynesia ↗

➡ For decades, Tetiaroa belonged to **Marlon Brando**. Before him, it was the playground of choice for Tahitian royalty. And no wonder: 12 lush *motus* ringed with white-sand beaches encircle a sparkling lagoon teeming with sea turtles, Technicolor coral, and 167 species of fish. Brando was an early advocate of sustainability, pioneering seawater air-conditioning systems and dabbling in renewable energies. When Brando died, his estate sold the property to a hotelier; as of July, it's finally open to the public. Starting at \$4,065 a night for a one-bedroom villa, **the Brando** (thebrando.com)



middle-of-nowhere **Yellowknife** in Canada's Northwest Territories to uninhabited Somerset Island in Nunavut, some 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The joy, of course, in being so far off the map is getting up close with Mother Nature. In the course of a weeklong "Discovery" safari (from \$7,338 per person, all-inclusive; arcticwatch.ca), comb the tundra for polar bears; kayak among icebergs, belugas, and seals; rumble ATVs along the shores of the **Northwest Passage**; hike trails littered with prehistoric fossils; and catch char in gorgeous **Inukshuk Lake**. Trips only occur in June, July, and August (Hello, midnight sun!), but book months in advance; in typical ends-of-the-Earth fashion, the lodge only accepts 26 guests at a time.



ENVIROFREAK FANTASY
Santa Cruz Island, the Galápagos

◆ Like visiting the Eiffel Tower or climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, a trip to

THRILLER DOWN UNDER
Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand ⬆

◆ Both the North and South Islands of New Zealand are famed for their natural wonders, but Queenstown is the de facto adrenaline capital of Middle Earth. Here, you can bungee jump with **AJ Hackett** (bungy.co.nz), hurtle on a jet boat through the **Shotover River Canyon** (shotoverjet.com), or 'copter over mind-bogglingly beautiful **Milford Sound** (flynz.co.nz). If spending your honeymoon with your stomach on the floor doesn't appeal, tour the wineries of **Central Otago** and grab a table at **Rata** (ratadining.co.nz), helmed by Michelin-star chef **Josh Emmett**. Whatever you do, book yourself into **Aro-Ha**, (from \$3,605 per person; aro-ha.com) or the **Matakauri Lodge** (from \$505; matakaurilodge.com). The former is an all-inclusive wellness retreat incorporating Vinyasa yoga and vegetarian cuisine. The latter is situated on the banks of the alien-blue **Lake Wakatipu**. Of the dozen suites, eight are stand-alone cottages with terraces.

the Galápagos is a bucket-list endeavor. Thanks to the all-inclusive **Pikaia Lodge** (from \$3,230 per person for three nights; pikaialodge.com), you can now check out the protected marine reserve in ecoconscious fashion. Opening this October on a slip of land between two extinct volcanic craters, the 14-room resort is the first carbon-neutral accommodation here, powered entirely by solar and wind energy. Its restaurant, meanwhile, emphasizes local ingredients. There's a yacht and wet suits for day tours and separate live-aboard options for more remote dives, plus guides to walk you through whatever marine life (manta rays, giant tortoises, sea lions) you might encounter along the way.



ANTI-IBIZA
Minorca, Spain

◆ The hordes can have glossy Majorca and party-central Ibiza. Minorca is the dark horse of Mediterranean escapes—the smallest,

sleepiest, and arguably most special of the **Balearic Islands**. (The whole place is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.) Settle into one of six rooms at **Hotel Ses Sucres** in central **Ferries** (from \$116; hotelsecsucres.com), a converted 1844 manor house with walls displaying contemporary art and daily breakfasts of pastries and jam. There are no TVs, which is just as well: Order a picnic basket, grab two bikes, and pedal to one of Minorca's countless beaches (**Cala Mitjana**, **Son Saura**, and **Binigaus** are all stunning). If you tire of cycling, motorbike your way from villa to villa or bump along the ancient **Camí de Cavalls** trail on a horse (cavallssonangel.com). Or just head back to Ferreries and toast your savviness at avoiding tourists over a pair of pomadas (Minorcan gin with lemonade).

DIXIE-FIED HAMPTONS
Southern Outer Banks, North Carolina

◆ Think of North Carolina's Crystal Coast and its quaintly named townships (**Salter Path**, **Pine Knoll Shores**, etc.) as a less pretentious, more genteel Southampton. In this neck of the barrier islands, the looming beachfront mansions (a.k.a. "sand castles") are the stuff of legend. Can't fill eight bedrooms? No problem. Beach bungalows

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE VENDORS