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# AMERICA GETS M

From a yacht harbor in Rhode Island to the sands of Hawaii, **six couples** show how to



# MARRIED

show how to create a wedding that's the ultimate in personal style



Handwritten notes on a vertical strip of paper on the right side of the page, including the word "Gift" and some illegible scribbles.

The groom wore Hugo Boss; the bride commissioned fabric artist Nick Coman to create an ethnic/island-inspired ensemble that she "could truly wear again."



An outdoorsy duo shared a passion for Hawaii—and each other. What better way to honor both their loves than with a celebration on the **Garden Isle** of Kauai?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GERTRUDE & MABEL PHOTOGRAPHY

TROPIC



WONDER



BRIDE: MIA RONDINELLA, 33  
 GROOM: RICHARD SINGER, 38  
 LENGTH OF ENGAGEMENT: 11 MONTHS  
 WEDDING DATE: APRIL 18  
 WEDDING LOCATION: KAUAI, HI  
 NUMBER OF GUESTS: 200  
 WEDDING PARTY: 6 BRIDESMAIDS,  
 11 GROOMSMEN, 1 RING BEARER

AFTER YEARS OF CAMPING, SURFING, and holidaying on Kauai's north shore, Mia Rondinella, who works in the entertainment field, and Rich Singer, an investment manager, knew there was no other place on earth they wanted to wed. To encourage guests to mingle, the Santa Monica, California, couple rented the Kauikeolani Estate, near Hanalei, hoping the historic home would serve as a hub during the weeklong celebration. Did it ever! By the time the bride pulled up to the ceremony in an outrigger canoe, loved ones on both sides of the aisle were chatting like old friends. After custom vows that blended elements of (his) Jewish and (her) Italian traditions, guests reunited at a lounge-style reception featuring a buffet of candied-peanut-crusted ono and stuffed fried tofu. According to Mia, the spirit of aloha made a lasting impression. "People still call me up to ask for other guests' e-mail addresses."

## CREATIVE CUSTOMIZING

**BONDING EXERCISES** To help guests connect, Mia and Rich scheduled activities like outdoor yoga classes and themed cocktail nights throughout the week.

**TREASURE ISLAND** Norbert and Ina Roessler of Kauai Gems created a one-of-a-kind necklace for the bride, as well as gifts for the wedding party. Ina spent more than 100 hours combing local beaches for the perfect pieces of net coral.

**NO MORE TIERS** Mia and Rich aren't cake fans, so planner Deanna Schafer did an espresso bar with biscotti, coffee-chocolate-chip cookies, and truffles. —*Yolanda Crous*



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**THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT** The groom and guys wore maile and ti leaf leis. Lanterns cast a glow. Perfect Parrots (coconut rum, cranberry juice, and lime) made the rounds. Hula dancers entertained at the rehearsal luau. A full moon added to the ambience. Mia's bouquet included orchids and curly willow. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** The newlyweds went barefoot. Jordan almonds (classic Italian favors) sat in bamboo steamers. Mia designed the program. The bride arrived via canoe. Turn to Shopping Guide.



## BEST MONEY-SAVERS

**Helping hands** Friends and family used tropical cuttings from a local farm to decorate the marriage canopy, outrigger canoe, and tent poles.

**Negotiating tactics** Because they hired the same caterer for both the rehearsal dinner and reception, the bride and groom had leverage to ask for—and get!—a discount. And since they opted for buffets at each event, “We ended up saving a couple of thousand dollars on food,” says Mia.

**Liquor shock** The couple purchased all the wine for a steal at Costco. Bonus: After the wedding, the discounter allowed them to return two cases of leftover vino for a full refund.

**Playing house** At Mia and Rich’s suggestion, guests booked vacation houses rather than much pricier hotel rooms. Bonus: Kitchens meant everyone could save big bucks on breakfast.

