



# REAL weddings & HONEYMOONS

MARTHA STEWART

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See page 84





*Since this is our travel issue, I thought I'd share where I've been lately. In February, my family and I escaped chilly New York for a few days in Mexico, staying at the intimate Mahekal Beach Resort (right) in Playa del Carmen. It would be heavenly for honeymooners, but also for destination weddings, thanks to a recent \$16 million renovation, which includes new open-air event spaces and a special outdoor spot for ceremonies.*



## AND NOW A WORD FROM...



**BROOKE  
PORTER KATZ,**  
Senior Editor

As our resident travel expert, Brooke is responsible for the amazing honeymoon suggestions in this issue. I asked her how planning a honeymoon is different from any other vacation—and here's what she said.

"I actually don't think the approach should differ! Yes, couples tend to put a lot of pressure on the honeymoon—going somewhere either incredibly far away or very expensive—but every trip you take together should have a wow factor, even if it's in a small way. And as with any vacation, you want your honeymoon to fit who you are as travelers. Are you a beach person? Prefer getting lost in a big city? A mix? If you don't like sitting on the sand, don't fly halfway around the world to Bora Bora just because it seems like the quintessential honeymoon destination. A road trip along the California coast, for example, can be incredibly romantic and just as special. All that said, I do think a honeymoon is the time to splurge on one or two things you otherwise wouldn't, depending on what's important to you. This could be first or business class plane tickets, a fancy hotel stay, a meal at a world-renowned restaurant—even a souvenir that's pricier than something you'd normally buy for yourself. I guarantee you'll never regret it."

# Nice to Meet You!

**THIS IS MY FIRST ISSUE** as editor, though I'm no stranger to the Martha world, having worked on *Martha Stewart Living* until my very recent move down the hall. (I was even on the staff of the premiere issue of *Weddings*, way back when—so you might say that when it comes to this magazine, I'm both "something old" and "something new.")

In fact, I feel like I already know you. You are beautiful, creative, clever, and madly in love with a very special person. You want your wedding to be meaningful and personal, and reflect who the two of you really are. You care—deeply!—about the details but also know that what's most

important is everything that comes *after* the I do's. Am I right? I just had a feeling.

Of course, each couple is also completely unique, and in this special issue, you'll find 11 very different real weddings. I fell for all the brides and grooms after hearing their sweet stories and seeing the magical events they orchestrated. Whether a Midwestern barn (page 40), a beach in the Maldives (page 84), or a Berkshires art museum (page 38) is more your style, there are dozens of ideas that will inspire you as you plan your big day—take them and make them your own.

Here's to a bright future together. Cheers!

*Amy*  
**Amy Conway**  
Editor in Chief



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