

SANTA BARBARA

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## THE WEDDING ISSUE



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# — GET — INSPIRED

Photographed by Meadow Rose  
Written by Jennifer Arreguin & Natasha Burton



Allora by Laura

Once you get engaged, no doubt you'll start frequenting wedding blogs and Pinterest, perhaps even buy a couple wedding magazines, to start getting ideas for your big day. And while these resources are certainly filled with pages and pages of gorgeous images, they're not the only places to find amazing ideas for your celebration.

To really expand your inspiration horizons, and unlock your wedding planning creativity, check out the following as you start to conceptualize your ideal gathering.

**Runway shows:** Let fashion be your muse for everything from your gown to your reception décor. Look to couture cuts and other details to inspire your wedding wear—right now, elements like micro-pleats, defined waists, ruffles, and high collars are super on-trend and would lend themselves well to your big day look. Other styles that are very now—like Victorian, Spanish influence, lingerie-inspired fabrics (silk and lace), and floral elements—can translate into your tabletops in the form of textured or patterned linens, vintage china and flowers...everywhere!

**Lifestyle blogs:** Home, food and design sites (and magazines!) often get overlooked during the planning process. But these resources showcase the biggest trends in décor, dining, entertaining, and creating incredible spaces. You'll find amazing ideas that you can apply to your celebration, like unusual color pairings, new spins on nibbles for cocktail hour (not to mention the latest libations) and fresh ways to set your tables.

**Store window displays:** Just taking a walk through your local shopping center can help you conceptualize your wedding look. Stores like Anthropologie, Nordstrom and Barneys create seasonal displays designed to showcase their

wares—and spark some major inspiration. You'll get plenty of ideas for your attire, no doubt, as well as see aspirational concepts that could lend themselves perfectly to your ceremony backdrop or reception décor, from draping to lighting to colors.

**Vacations you've taken:** Take a trip down memory lane by consulting your Facebook albums and scrapbooks—you'll soon find wedding planning brilliance. Looking at the places you and your fiancé have visited—and even where you plan to go on your honeymoon—can unlock ideas you may have never considered otherwise. Perhaps you'll be inspired to incorporate some Italian flair to honor your first major trip together, or pay homage to the vibrant tropical vibe of Hawaii with your flowers, or play off classic Greek cuisine as you build your menu. Not only will these touches be special to you two because of your memories together from a particular place, but they'll brim with new meaning as you're able to share them with your nearest and dearest, too.

**Your wedding city:** One of the biggest trends for 2016 is getting married where you are, giving you an amazing opportunity to incorporate elements that truly welcome your guests to your city. Use your home as a jumping off point for your big day to give your loved ones the true home-grown experience. Local foods, traditions, rituals and locations can all serve as inspiration and including them will allow your guests to get a first-hand experience of your lives. Elements like welcome bags, favors, menu, and even where you decide to host your various events—the welcome dinner, wedding and morning-after brunch—can make your wedding really feel like home. ★

*Jennifer Arreguin and Natasha Burton are the founders of Swoon California, a boutique event planning company in Santa Barbara. Learn more at swooncalifornia.com*