



Maui, Hawaii - First Class Weddings and Events is a full-service Event planning company and our offerings include: Corporate Groups, Weddings, Private Venue Management, Celebrity Event's and Custom Party Planning, Digital Media - Photography and Cinematography, Florals, Security Services, Beauty & Spa, Entertainment, Interior & Exterior Design Services, Transportation, Formal Wear and more.

Hawaii, is the most beautiful and special location to have an event. Selecting the right event planning company is very important. At First Class Weddings and Events, your hand selected event planner collaborates with you in the process of creating a truly exclusive Tropical event. We recognize and understand that this is one of the most important days of your life. Your First Class Event Planner works as an extension of you, in order see your dream become a reality. We look forward to planning and celebrating your Maui event with you.

*Tammy Ash Perkins*

*Founder*

*WEDDINGS*

A romantic photograph of a bride and groom on a rocky beach at sunset. The bride is wearing a white sleeveless gown and a pink lei, while the groom is in a white shirt and light-colored pants with a green lei. They are sitting on large dark rocks, with the ocean and a sandy beach visible in the background under a colorful sky.

2001 m a u i  
wedding planner

MAUI WEDDING ASSOCIATION



*First Class*  
WEDDINGS 

*A First Class  
Wedding On Maui*

*You've waited  
for this special day  
and everything  
needs to be perfect.*

*Your wedding  
on Maui  
will be in one  
of the world's most  
romantic settings.*

*You deserve  
the very best...  
a first class wedding  
in Hawaii.*

*To begin planning your  
First Class wedding call  
1.800.B.Maui.ed (262.8433)  
[firstclassweddings.com](http://firstclassweddings.com)*



*Maui Hawaii*  
"Full service Wedding & Reception Coordination"  
"A company that is built on trust"  
Maui 1808 877 1411  
Photo taken at Hoku Lani Makana  
Photo by Graham Chappell

*First Class*  
WEDDINGS  
[www.firstclassweddings.com](http://www.firstclassweddings.com)

*First Class*  
WEDDINGS & EVENTS  
HAWAII

*live your dream...*  
[www.firstclassweddings.com](http://www.firstclassweddings.com)

# MAGAZINE FEATURES

Heather & Matt Wedding  
June 5, 2010



Matt and Heather were married at a private beachfront home in Wailea on the island of Maui in Hawaii. They were originally going to be married at the Hoku Lani Estate next to the famous Keawalai Church (built in 1855 and made of 3 foot thick lava rock) but were forced to relocate venues just weeks before their wedding! Luckily they pulled some strings and secured a friend's beautiful home, directly on the beach.





# Wailea - Maui



Heather converted to Matthew's faith, Judaism, and the Ketubah signing was one of the most memorable we have seen. The Rabbi is an accomplished musician and incorporated the guitar into the entire 30-minute long ritual.

Their entire wedding party and immediate family members were in the room and everyone held each other and sang and moved in rhythm. It was breathtaking. So, was their ceremony, so was their celebration, so were they!



Danielle & Mitch Wedding  
July 12, 2008



He's Australian, she's an American girl.  
He lives in London, she lives in California.  
But this night, they will meet each other in the most famous pub of Dublin during a trip in the Irish capital.  
This will be the beginning of a magical true love story.



Danielle and Mitch felt in love instantly this night, and decide to get married and build their lives together.

Here are the pictures of this romantic couple and of their beautiful, natural, «organic style» wedding which was taking place at the Haiku Mill, a ancient sugar mill really famous for the beauty of this location.







« He makes me feel like we're partners, so it's like... Let's get the show on the road, we've got a whole life to build together, no more waiting... »



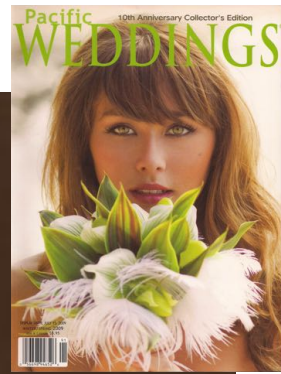


# Summer Solstice



When Mitch Glew first caught sight of Danielle Lutzema across a sea of green hats, he was instantly smitten. It was a cold winter's night in Dublin, Ireland when the couple met in the most unexpected of places— a boisterous and very crowded Irish pub on St. Patrick's Day, 2006. The handsome Australian was working in London at the time and traveling through Ireland with friends. Mitch recalls, "I was getting a round of drinks for my mates, when I spotted the most beautiful set of eyes I've ever seen in my whole life." Danielle was on spring break from the University of California, and although she noticed Mitch immediately, she nonchalantly approached the bar close to where he was standing. Unable





DANIELLE LURTSEMA & MITCH GLEW  
JULY 12, 2008 PUA LEA ESTATE, HAIKU SUGAR MILL, MAUI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSY MAISON | TEXT BY PERRINE FALA



to navigate the crowd, Mitch simply raised his hand into the air toward this beautiful stranger. Danielle misinterpreted the flirtatious gesture as a "high five", and when the two locked hands he swept her up in a spontaneous kiss! Shocked but amused, Danielle couldn't resist his confident invitation to have her friends join him at a table across the room. They spent the entire evening lost in conversation, walking hand in hand through the icy streets of Dublin. As they spoke of their families and personal lives, Danielle realized their intimate discussion went beyond the usual first date rapport. She says, "We both see life as this adventure and this dream, and it all came out that night!" They literally talked until dawn, when her flight took off for Los Angeles at five o'clock that same morning.

Life changed for each of them in that moment. Mitch remembers, "All I could think about for the rest of my trip was Danielle-I couldn't get her out of my mind. I'd never had this feeling in my life... this feeling of contentment. I had fallen in love with this girl in an instant. It was amazing." Three weeks later, he boarded a plane from London to Los Angeles, and they have been inseparable ever since. On a visit to Sydney, Mitch took the opportunity to surprise his love and had an engagement ring designed for her in Australia. Upon his return to San Diego, he drove Danielle to one of their favorite spots, the top of Mt. Soledad, where he asked her to be his wife. When she kissed him without reply, he inquired, "Is that a 'yes'?" She happily accepted, "Of course!"

Wedding plans ensued, and the couple agreed Hawaii was an ideal meeting place to accommodate both sides of the family- his relatives traveling from Australia and her family from the West Coast of California...





... A mutual passion for travel and white sand beaches led them to an idyllic spot on the island of Maui. Initially, Danielle and Mitch envisioned a beach wedding, but when she visited Hawaii with her mother to scout out locations, their wedding coordinator, Lena Sebag of First Class Weddings, made an appointment to preview the Pua Le'a Estate. Hidden in the verdant hills of Haiku, the ruins of this historic sugar mill have been transformed by the present owner into a lush tropical garden. Vintage columns and furnishings scavenged from Paris flea markets give the ambience a European flair, and a quaint restored cane house on the property now serves as the bridal dressing room. As Danielle breathed in the blossoming jasmine, she felt transported to a secret garden and knew her wedding would be magical in this setting. "Since our guests were traveling so far for the event, we wanted to make sure we gave them a night unlike any other they had ever experienced" says Danielle.





# Antara & Kinsuk Wedding September 2, 2007



Antara Bhardwaj, a director, and Kinsuk Brahma, an engineer, got married in Hawaii in September 2007. This american-indian wedding last several days. It was a particular event beginning with a pre-bridal henna party and a moonlite martini bar. The poolside restaurant at the Grand Wailea Resort has been rented and closed off to set up the reception there.



*« I was completely blown away when I saw the whole set up for the wedding. (...) Working with First Class Weddings was actually a wonderful experience and what was great, was no problem Antara*





# Grand Wailea Resort - Maui



*«Our approach to any wedding, whether it would be a thousand dollars or a half-million dollars wedding, is to really get into a relationship with the client so that we know what they're dreaming, and it's up to us to make that happen.»  
Tammy Ash Perkins.*



**SOME PRESS**





i do, i do



## maui, hawaii

Antara Bhardwaj weds Kingsuk Brahma on September 2, 2007

**A**ntara always wanted a traditional Hindu wedding in India. But when King, whose family resides mainly in Calcutta, proposed during an August trip to Carmel, California, she knew two things: Due to the heat, the only logical time to marry in Calcutta was December — but planning a wedding in four months wasn't an option. "I wanted my engagement to last no longer than a year," she says. So when Antara's sister suggested they marry in Hawaii instead of India, Antara, a filmmaker, and King, an engineer, jumped at the idea.

The daunting task of planning an elaborate Hindu ceremony from afar didn't stress the San Jose-based couple. They enlisted the help of First Class Weddings to coordinate details, such as flying in the Indian DJ, hiring a stylist ("because Indian outfits are so elaborate and impossible to wear without some professional help") and importing a shipment of intricate brocade pillows and hand-painted silk scarves.

For four days, 130 guests enjoyed the Grand Wailea Resort in Maui. The night before the wedding, guests gathered on the ocean-view lawn of the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea for *mehandi*, a traditional prewedding event where henna is applied to the hands and feet of the bride and other women in attendance. The evening's events followed with plumaria garlands, a Tahitian dance performance and authentic Indian cuisine. The real surprise: a fireworks display arranged by Antara's father.

On the wedding day, Antara, dressed in a light pink *lehenga* (a long skirt and blouse), and King, clothed in a pink *sherwani* (wedding suit), became one during a traditional ceremony back at the Grand Wailea. A sit-down reception followed, coupling American jazz and Indian music. Various vibrant pink and white flowers adorned the event, creating a scene saturated in subtle yet powerful color. "The decor, the flowers — it was all so surreal that you almost had to stop and say, 'Is this really happening?'" says King. "It was one of the most perfect sights." — Blake Miller

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GLEN JOHNSON

The couple held the *mehandi* event at the Four Seasons' garden (2), where Tahitian dancers performed (6). Antara holds her engagement ring in her henna-painted hands (3). The couple's friends and family watch as Antara and her father enter the ceremony (4). King and Antara wear matching elaborate pink wedding outfits (5).





# I Do, I Do, I Do...



**C**OLLEGE SWEETHEARTS JESSICA FARNSWORTH AND Brian Butts took nine years to decide to marry, but they knew that same day they'd have a small, private wedding on Maui. The couple from Sammamish, Washington, met playing volleyball at Central Washington University. Brian, an advertising consultant, proposed to Jessica, a resource manager for a consulting firm, on bended knee at the base of Washington's Snoqualmie Falls. Jessica wanted to

marry on Maui ever since their vacation there three years earlier. "It's so romantic and gorgeous," she says.

After weeks of on-line research and interviews, they chose Maui's First Class Weddings to coordinate the July 3, 2002, event. Jessica took no planning trips to the island. "I knew I had to relinquish control, go with

the flow, and trust my wedding planner," she says. "I didn't want a year of stress." The couple chose the upper tee box at the Wailea Gold Golf Course for the ceremony site because the bluff offered privacy and breathtaking views of the coastline and surrounding islands. They rented The Red Palms Estate, a five-

suite villa with a pool, and invited the bridal party to join them for the entire wedding week.

On the big day, guests took golf carts to the ceremony site. The bride, bridesmaids, and mothers arrived in a stretch limousine. Harp music floated on the sea breeze, and there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd during the vows. (Thankfully, Jessica had tested her makeup in advance to ensure it was tear-proof.)

The couple gave leis to their parents and supplied fans and bottled water for their 38 guests. For the reception, chocolate-raspberry torte, dancing, speeches, and champagne toasts topped a four-course dinner at The Sea Watch Restaurant.

Jessica's advice: "Make a list in advance of the pictures you want with different people so you don't miss important shots. Spend a week at your destination, and get married in the middle of the week. That way you only have a few days to worry-then it's party time."

## FARNSWORTH-BUTTS WEDDING

BY KATHLEEN M. MANGAN

● PHOTOGRAPHS

BY STEWART PINSKY





Clockwise from top left: Jessica's attendants lead the processional to the upper tee box at Maui's Wailea Gold Golf Course. A rush of newly-wed elation follows the nine-year courtship. Brian's maile lei sets off his tuxedo, while the beaded bodice of Jessica's two-piece gown, by Alfred Angelo, rivals the sparkle of her ring. The manicured green makes a perfect backdrop for rosebuds and a blushing bride. One grand candlelit table seats guests for dinner on the Sea Watch terrace. Brian and Jessica dance their first dance to the Huey Lewis-Gwyneth Paltrow tune 'Cruisin'. Pretty as a postcard: bridesmaids Becky Dody, Whitney Cromwell, Heather Finerty, and maid of honor Erica Farnsworth.





## ANGELA KANG & ANTHONY KIM WEDDING

March 30, 2002

Anthony Kim, President of a San Francisco software company, met his future wife, Angela Kang on a blind date. A mutual friend and tennis partner at the San Francisco Tennis Club thought they would make a perfect match, and invited them to join him for dinner. They soon found they had even more in common. Angela, an attorney, hosted an annual Valentines Day party in San Francisco. Although she and Anthony traveled in different social circles, they realized they actually had several mutual friends who attended her party each year, including Anthony's high school classmate. Little did they know that evening that this classmate would eventually be a groomsman at their wedding.

The couple had been dating for just over a year when Anthony decided to surprise Angela with an impromptu trip to New York for her birthday. Wanting everything to be perfect, he phoned the Four Seasons Hotel in advance to arrange for five dozen roses to be waiting in their suite upon arrival. The card on the roses read, "Marry me!" Anthony remembers, "Unfortunately, the card was addressed to 'Mr. Anthony Kim' and not 'Angela Kang'. I had to make do with that, and proposed on the spot."





When Angela and Anthony began discussing their wedding, they both agreed they wanted an intimate, elegant affair. If they stayed in San Francisco, the event would be well over two hundred guests. Angela had attended a ceremony in Hawaii the year before, and fell in love with the chapel at the Grand Wailea Resort. Hawaii seemed the ideal meeting place for family members traveling from Asia, New York, San Francisco and Korea. "It gave our family members the opportunity to take a short vacation, too," says Anthony.

The bride and groom hosted a rehearsal dinner for all of their guests at the Old Lahaina Luau, where everyone enjoyed a taste of local Hawaiian culture. The wedding day arrived and guests gathered at the Grand Wailea Chapel on the southern coast of Maui. The sun cast a warm glow through the colorful Hawaiian scenes of the stained glass windows as Angela and Anthony exchanged wedding vows among their closest family and friends.

The celebration continued at a reception under the stars at the Sea Watch Restaurant nearby. Set above the rolling hills of Wailea, the lanai at the Sea Watch offered the perfect setting with spectacular ocean and mountain views at sunset. Guests mingled and reminisced late into the evening around tables glimmering with candlelight, white orchids and lilies. Angela and Anthony prepared a special blend of Hawaiian sea salt favors, and created private label CDs for each of their guests. The laughter and joy of the evening lasted long past the tasting of the wedding cake, with no one wanting to break the spell of this magical Maui night.

NŌ KA 'ŌI MAHI WEDDINGS

Say "I Do"  
to What's New

Photo: Sweet Peas





## Mauï's wedding coordinators give the inside scoop on the latest wedding trends.

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something...? Well, according to top Mauï wedding experts, even the traditions are exactly what they're representing.

Couples are still fond of traditional "white wedding" traditions, like the bride and groom's first dance and the ceremonial cake cutting, but "they have a strong desire to create a wedding and reception that are a true representation of who they really are," says Tammy Perkins, president of Four Class Weddings, Inc. Perkins, who has been coordinating weddings for nearly 10 years, says that these days, couples are using what is formal, meaningful like first dance and elaborate centerpieces, and choosing lighter touches that more authentically reflect their personalities.

"The trend used to be opulence. Now, it's more about elements that are unique and less spread," says Dorelle Amis, event manager at Finley V. Even the smallest of touches can achieve this effect. For one couple, Amis turned a chair of Upcountry produce into the focal arrangement.

Floral and greenery arrangements, of course, are a must. And these days, wedding vendors—decorators, florists, and friendly vendors, such as the florist, venue, and venue— are just beginning to make their mark.

### 1. Be Adventurous

Brides and grooms are opting for more adventurous locales. "The couple and their guests can be transported to a tropical destination by boat with morning drinks on Waialeale Island," says Tim Wackler of Pacific Island Weddings. They may choose a sailboat for an intimate wedding with champagne, the traditional cake and酒, even the chef aboard. Couples have even chosen ceremony sites that require hiking boots to access, says Wackler. "You really need to find a location that can be this challenge."

Or couples are opting for island adventures for guests a day or two before the wedding. "Couples are more active these days and look for a healthy mix-up with outdoor activities," says Cassie Higdon, owner of A White

Oval Wedding. Traditional takes, white-wedding suits during white season, and even camping are options that give a wedding weekend an extra kick.

### 2. Go Green

Many new weddings are going with environmentally friendly, such as a menu of organic, locally grown foods. Even if you can't go green, you can still do your part to make a difference.

Sea candles are a big hit, says Higdon. Because, unlike traditional candles, they're not petroleum-based. Also popular: replacing those old, nasty seats of plastic, in favor of biodegradable materials like napkins composed of leaves, reusable paper. Higdon's A White Oval Wedding has taken the cue, recycling what it can after each event and using environmentally friendly products.

Using paperless email invites and wedding websites to disseminate important event information to couples saves guests, it also cuts environmentally—and saves money. Or send "digital" anniversary cards



# A PERFECT DAY

Hawaii is the ideal setting for those looking to tie the knot in style.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSANNE PRIDOEHL  
BY KAREN LELAND

A musician is playing the ukulele and singing a lazy, pleasing melody. Guests gaze out over the azure blue ocean and palm trees sway in the breeze. As the sun sets, the bride enters. Wearing a ginger lei, she strolls past plumeria-strewn aisles and arrives oceanside to stand with her groom under an orchid-adorned gazebo. It's just another romantic wedding day in paradise. Thinking about getting married in Hawaii? If so, here's a guide to the four most popular islands for tying the knot.

## MAUI - The Valley Isle



During the past 13 years, Tammy Ash Perkins, author of *The Best of Hawaii Wedding Book*, has planned thousands of weddings on the island. In Perkins' opinion, the popularity of Maui as a wedding destination lies in the island's temperate climate (between 70 and 88 degrees Fahrenheit year round) and easy access to a bounty of beautiful beaches. In addition, the myriad of activities available — from five-star spas to bike rides down Haleakala Volcano — is diverse enough to meet the needs of any wedding party.

Perkins' choice for the best value is **The Fairmont Kea Lani** ([www.fairmont.com/kealani](http://www.fairmont.com/kealani)). When Kaylyn Lehmann, a corporate trainer, and her fiancé Marc, a deputy sheriff, decided to get married, they chose the Kea Lani. "We liked the simplicity of going away to get married, but we wanted a location where our friends and family would want to join us," Kaylyn says. "We also liked the idea that after the wedding, we could honeymoon in the same place. From that first morning when I woke up on my wedding day, I had a shivering sense of well-being. The wedding itself was perfect — not too formal but still elegant — and the price was right. Even though we were a small wedding, they treated us like it was a \$150,000 event."

For the best private estate wedding, Perkins highlights the **Hokulani Makena** (808-281- 1362). The property offers a lush tropical setting on the water's edge with palm, mango, banana trees and bamboo. "This estate is the vision that people have in their minds when they come to Hawaii," she explains. She says that a major advantage to having a wedding at a private estate is the expanded food and beverage options.

One of her top catering company recommendations for local-style food is Haliimaile General Store ([www.bevgannonrestaurants.com](http://www.bevgannonrestaurants.com)) owned by Bev Gannon, a founding member of the Hawaii Regional Cuisine movement. Gannon specializes in developing customized menus for wedding receptions.

And for that final touch? Check out a cake with a sense of whimsy from **Maui Wedding Cakes** ([www.mauiweddingcakes.com](http://www.mauiweddingcakes.com)), where tropical-themed cakes transform aloha shirts, hula dancers and palm trees into delicious edibles.



# OAHU - The Gathering Place

For couples looking to blend the excitement of city life with the relaxation of a tropical paradise, this island offers the perfect solution.



Steve Young, owner of Dream **Weddings Hawaii** ([www.dreamweddingshawaii.com](http://www.dreamweddingshawaii.com)), says that despite the predominance of towerstyle hotels on the island, Oahu has more than enough white sand beaches to satisfy happy couples, and recommends two sites in Ko Olina.

For a formal wedding with a structured atmosphere, Young recommends the **Ihilani Resort & Spa** ([www.ihilani.com](http://www.ihilani.com)).

If a laidback Hawaiian-style wedding is in order, Young suggests the **Lanikuhonua** ([www.lanikuhonua.org](http://www.lanikuhonua.org)) private estate. "One nice thing about this property," Young says, "is that they don't discriminate based on how large or small your wedding party is. The service is just as good for a 10-person wedding as it is for 1,000 people."

Both Young and Perkins caution couples that if they are going to use a private estate, they need to make sure that the location is licensed. They should also budget for grounds fees (for both resort hotels and private estates), which can run into the thousands.

# KAUAI - The Garden Isle

For lovers of lush green who want to get away from it all, there is no better island than Kauai. Its small size makes it a laidback and quiet option for couples looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Particularly on the north side of the island, "the only problem, wedding-wise," Perkins says, "is the amount of rainfall." For this reason, she suggests that despite the cost, a resort wedding is the best bet for both convenience and security.

Perkins highly recommends the Princeville at Hanalei ([www.princeville.com](http://www.princeville.com)), one of the island's most elaborate resorts, offering a wide array of wedding and reception options including a semi-private beach location-perfect for a seaside wedding.

If a large lawn — or garden — style wedding is what a couple has in mind, The Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa ([www.kauai.hyatt.com](http://www.kauai.hyatt.com)) is ideal. "We have two garden wedding sites," says Kasey Schoettler, the hotel's weddings manager. "One is elevated and offers a 180-degree view of the ocean. The other is on sea level amid meandering koi ponds, and has a sweeping ground-level ocean view."

The resort offers a variety of ceremony packages that include photography, an official, cake, champagne, lei exchanges as part of the ceremony, long distance consultation and musicians.

Perkins' other top resort picks include the Sheraton Kauai Resort ([www.sheratonkauai.com](http://www.sheratonkauai.com)) and the Hilton Kauai Beach Resort ([www.hiltonkauairesort.com](http://www.hiltonkauairesort.com)).

# THE BIG ISLAND



The Big Island of Hawaii is a great choice for couples looking for a more native feel and experience.

The Kohala Coast, just north of Kona, is the most popular spot for weddings, playing host to a variety of first-rate resorts and several of the state's top 10 beaches.

Perkins explains that the issue with a Big Island wedding is the island's size. "Once a couple reaches their destination, they will want to stay put, since going almost anywhere requires quite a bit of driving," Perkins says. For this reason, she suggests picking a venue such as the Hilton Waikoloa Village ([www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com](http://www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com)), which has everything contained within the property, including tennis, boating, golfing, more than a dozen restaurants and cafes, a fullservice spa, and the popular Dolphin Quest interactive experience.

But if it's Hawaiian tradition that a couple is after, the Mauna Lani Resort ([www.maunalani.com](http://www.maunalani.com)) and the services of its director of cultural affairs, Danny Akaka, are just what the Kahuna ordered. Akaka conducts the rituals, while a licensed official signs the formal papers.

"When I perform a wedding ceremony, I weave together Western marriage traditions with Hawaiian ones," Akaka says. His ceremonies begin with blowing the conch to the four corners — east, west, north and south. He then escorts the bride to her bridegroom, chanting to clear the path of spiritual obstacles and calling upon the ancestors and spirits of the aina (land). The ceremony itself includes a purification ritual, where the couple dips their hands into a bowl of blessed seawater and entwines the ends of two maile leis as a tangible expression of their love.

At the reception, guests can have a whole pig, cooked luau style. The pig, which is steamed underground, is heated up with hot rocks from the riverbed, wrapped in ti and banana leaves, and buried for up to eight hours. The pork comes out of the ground whole and guests watch while the chefs strip and serve it — just as they have done at traditional Hawaiian weddings for generations.

Once the cake has been cut, the champagne consumed and the leis laid to rest, what is it that really makes getting married in Hawaii so special? Akaka puts it best: "Beyond the beautiful sunsets, beaches and nature that surround the islands is the spiritual magnet that connects us with this nature. It attracted the ancients to the islands and it is what still attracts people today. Aloha (love) is that element that brings what has been separate, together."



# LOCATIONS



Haiku Mill, the ruins of an ancient sugar mill.



By day, the palms and venerable keawe trees of Sugarman's Estate offer shade from the South Maui sun. At night, spot-lights add a dramatic touch to this historic setting overlooking a glistening bay.



Olowalu, the sugar plantation.



# « PARADISE POINT »

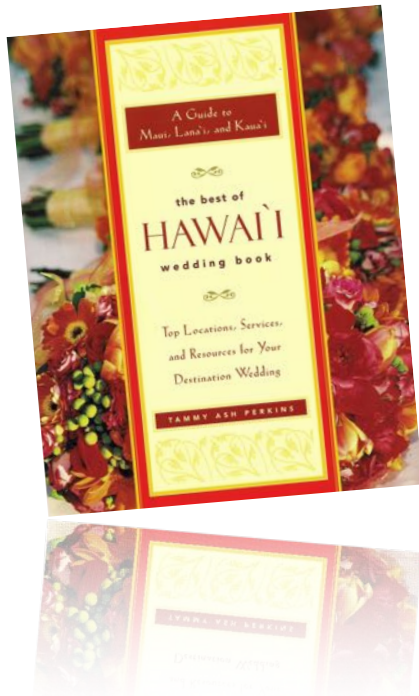


For any informations, please contact First Class Weddings : 808-877-1411

# TAMMY'S BOOK



# Tammy Ash Perkins has officially become an author.



## Author and Wedding Planner Tammy Ash Perkins Reveals all Her Secrets in "The Best of Hawaii Weddings"...

Maui, Hawaii, April 10, 2006: Wedding day mishaps like lost rings, wrong-sized outfits, offended mothers-in-law and unreliable photographers have long made for amusing stories. Amusing for everybody except the bride or groom.

And even a princess can be embarrassed by poor planning, says Tammy Ash Perkins, principal and founder of First Class Weddings in Maui.

Diana, when she married Prince Charles, wasn't able to get into the glass coach that was to take her past adoring throngs to Westminster Abbey. No, she hadn't gained weight. It was that none of her handmaidens or helpers had thought about the problems of getting

through the coach's tiny doors in that famous wedding dress with its thirty-foot long train. Not to mention the problems of what to do with 350sq feet of the world's finest silk, that you don't want crushed, in a small, fully transparent glass bubble. Amusing story? Not for Diana, who suffered even more embarrassment as she struggled to exit the coach in front of millions of onlookers.

Stories like these and a fifteen-year career as a wedding planner on the beautiful Hawaiian isle of Maui motivated Tammy Ash Perkins to write her definitive guide on how to ensure everything goes right on your wedding day.

"First Class Weddings has been organizing and planning weddings here on Maui for fifteen years," said Tammy. "We know the best photographers, all the celebrants, the florists who can take the local flora and create works of wonder, which caterers to use, the ideal venues, the most charming emcees and all those perfect outdoor settings."

"But," Tammy said, "even though I have known many of these vendors for fifteen years, we don't have a commitment to anyone provider. A lot depends on the situation. Ever since Cindy Crawford got married on the beach, more and more of our brides want an outdoor wedding."

"For those celebrations, we use different vendors," said Tammy, "and of course Maui is the perfect backdrop if you want to get married under an open sky, say on a bluff overlooking the blue waters of the Pacific with a setting sun painting the horizon crimson and gold."

Hiring a professional to plan the event is the way more and more brides are making sure their wedding day is the realization of a dream, not a nightmare. A way the bride can enjoy the day and interact with the guests rather than worry about things going wrong. It makes sense.

"We do it any way the client wants," said Marla Tanouye, one of the marriage coordinators at First Class Weddings. "I can plan and organize every detail from the sending of invitations to the tossing of the bouquet, or just provide a venue or celebrant. Whatever level of service you need," said Maria. "We're there for every bride in a very personal way."

Wedding planners have become very popular here in Hawaii during the last 15 years. Couples from around the world are finding the lovely garden island of Maui to be the perfect setting for their marriage celebrations.

It certainly makes for spectacular photo opportunities.

# The Best of Hawaii Wedding Book

BY TAMMY ASH PERKINS

***At least half of all people who are planning to marry (pretty much the bride half) want to have a glorious wedding. Here's the how-to for the big day.***

I don't have to be able to understand why brides want their weddings to be "perfect" to be able to tell you that this book will help make that happen. Big time!

Let's get a little background first: Ten percent of all American weddings are destination weddings, meaning everyone in the wedding party travels to a place away from home for the marriage ritual and assorted, added events. That's pretty remarkable, yeah? Now add in the fact that Maui is right up at the top of the list of desirable U.S. destinations and even world destinations for pleasure travel. That's the equation, and here's the result: 90 percent of all weddings on Maui involve couples in which both the bride and groom are non-residents.

In real numbers, according to the most recent *Maui County Data Book*, that means 9,012 non-resident couples were married on Maui — aka Maui'd — in 2004. Another 51 couples included either a bride or a groom who didn't live here. Just 957 couples were Maui residents. More than 9,000 brides in 2004 (up from under 6,000 in 1998) needed Tammy Ash Perkins's *The Best of Hawai'i Wedding Book*, and it didn't exist. Well, now it does. And there may well have been a few thousand other brides who would have chosen Maui for their weddings if they had such a book.

Gear up, Maui. Once this information about how to have destination weddings on Maui, Lana'i and Kaua'i gets into circulation, you have to wonder how a bride could decide *not* to come here.

I suppose there will be some wedding planners and providers of wedding-related services who will be miffed. They'll ask why they are not included in and praised in and advertised in *The Best of Hawai'i Wedding Book*. That's easy. It's Perkins's book, so she gets to decide, based on years of experience planning thousands of Maui weddings, who to list as "the best of Hawai'i."

Setting aside any possible "me-too" fuss, this book has everything I can think of that a bride could possibly ask. Well, maybe not absolutely everything. After all, every bride, every groom, every family is different with some special need no one could have anticipated. Even that is handled because, in the midst of the overflowing treasure trove

of information here, are the names and contact informations of all the people who know all the answers to even the most unexpected questions.

Perkins has made her guide very complete, very easily browsed and very organized. Of course, brides will jump from choosing a destination in Hawai'i to chair rentals, from officiants to reception food ... at first. Opening this book is like being handed a 10-pound box of mixed chocolates — taste this, taste that — but when the time comes to know anything about having a wedding here, a bride with a copy of *The Best of Hawai'i Wedding Book* is ready to make real decisions, too.

It might seem obvious that a wedding planner would create a guide to wedding planning that would represent her own taste in wedding plans. That's not the case with Perkins. From sunsets on the beach to St. John's in Keokea, from intimate to extravagant, she covers it all.

For non-brides, this is not a reader's book, not even a browser's book, but for anyone actually thinking of marriage, this is an indispensable book. I'd bet that anyone who spends the few bucks on *Best of Hawai'i* will save at least 10 times as much by making right choices before they even write the first wedding-relevant check.

That's very cool.





## First Class Weddings & The Best of Hawai'i Wedding Book

(808) 877-1411 ~ [www.firstclassweddings.com](http://www.firstclassweddings.com)  
[www.hawaiiweddingbook.com](http://www.hawaiiweddingbook.com)

In 1994, wedding coordinator Tammy Ash Perkins started First Class Weddings, Inc., with the goal of leading by example and raising the bar of service and professionalism in Maui's burgeoning wedding industry. "Communication is crucial to a successful wedding," she says. "We have the utmost respect for our clients' time, so being prompt and responsive, and providing personalized service, are our priorities."



Destination brides need a reputable and trustworthy team working on their behalf here in the islands. First Class Weddings applies its high service standards to its carefully chosen vendors. And, as an independent company, First Class Weddings' allegiance is solely to its clients—and the commitment to making their dream wedding a reality.

"As experts, we feel it's important to deliver the best services available. We set ourselves apart with our experience, attention to detail, and most importantly, our ability to truly listen," says Perkins. "From simple yet elegant beach ceremonies to incredibly lavish events at our exclusive beachfront property, we are here to help you create an unforgettable Hawaiian wedding."



Tammy wrote the book on Maui marriages—literally having created one fairy tale ending after another, she has decided to share the invaluable contents of her little

black book with those planning a wedding in Hawai'i. Her recently published *The Best of Hawai'i Wedding Book* is a jackpot of information with an industry insider's point of view. "I am always honest and upfront," says Tammy. "Here is all the best advice distilled from my 12 years of experience." Available at book sellers nationwide or online retailers such as Amazon.com.

**NON-PROFIT WORLD**



# Growing Dreams

Aloha & Welcome,

I would like to begin by saying thank you to everyone for attending Maui Youth and Family Services (MYFS) 6th year anniversary of its Growing Dreams fashion and floral extravaganza show. Your participation speaks volumes on your commitment to our community and says a lot about you as an individual.

MYFS's mission is "Building Better Lives with Hawaii's Families". Now, more than ever the support of our community is needed for the reason that we can't always rely on government funding. Your contributions are very important because they ensure that invaluable services continue to be provided for our families, young people, and many others in need. Your gift is an expression of caring, and represents an investment in the future of our community.

If you're interested I encourage you to visit the web site at [www.myfs.org](http://www.myfs.org). It tells you what your donation and gifts are accomplishing, who you're helping, how you can get further involved through board participation, committee membership, mentoring, volunteering, donations, sponsorships, gifting, and where you can turn if you need help. Please consider MYFS when donating your time, talent or donations in the future.

Once again, your attendance and participation helps MYFS to provide vital health, family, and youth services to the community. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. You are making a huge difference! Our community is a better place to live, work and enjoy because of you.

Finally, I would like to extend a heart felt thank you to all the volunteers that helped put this event together. Your hard work and dedication are immensely appreciated. Thank you!

Mahalo Nui Loa

Tammy A. Perkins - Chair







# TESTIMONIALS



Tammy,

Thank you so much for everything. Jon, myself, our family and friends truly appreciate all you did. The wedding was a dream come true for both of us. We thank you also for all your expertise and knowing of the best Reverend, musician, caterer, photographer, dress presser, hair designer—everyone was excellent.

Thanks again!

*Jon & Kim*

Dear Tammy,

Our wedding was more incredible than we anticipated. Thank you for your hard work and creative ideas. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

*Anders & Julie*

Dear Tammy and the lighting/sound crew,

Thank you for a wonderful job you all did for the fashion show. Really appreciate your help in the 'Fire Dragon» segment of the show.

Thank you Tammy for your moral support.

Aloha,

*Tristan*

Dear Tammy,

I want to thank you once again for all your hard work in making our day perfect!! It was even better than I imagined!!

Thanks again!

*Lynette & Leland*

Tammy,

Hi there from the Mathiesons! We thought we would drop you a note to let you know how much we enjoyed our wedding and what a wonderful job you did on it!

It couldn't have been more perfect. Thank you so much for putting up with all my calls and making my Special Day even more perfect than I could imagine!

Love,

*Rhonda & Rick*





Thank  
You

To Tammy,

Thank you so much for all time and effort you gave in helping Carter & I to have the wedding of our dreams!

Your selection of the wedding site, Reverend Pia, and photographer, Tracy Tegarden, was perfect! Not to mention the dinner reservation at the Bay Club. It was awesome!

We will return to Maui sometime and hope to thank you in person.

Thank you,

*Tami & Carter*

Aloha Tammy,

I wanted to thank you again for yesterday's wedding at the Renaissance. It's always a pleasure to work with people who are both gracious & professional, such as Martin & Celia.

And, of course, yourself who brought us all together.

I do hope you will call me again.

Aloha & Best Wishes,

*Michael*

Tammy,

First to tell you «thank you», and then a line to say that doing nice things for others just seems to be your way !

You have been a lifesaver! Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your help!

Love,

*Penni & Shane*

Dear Tammy,

Thank you so much for being a part of our wedding. It's been a pleasure to work with you. We absolutely, positively could NOT have done it without all your help, assistance and aloha.

Your patience and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Christine & Alan*

Tammy,

Thank you for EVERYTHING you have done to help us. You and everyone at your company have been wonderful.

We will definitely recommend your company to friends.

Respectfully,

*Judy & Edward*



Thank  
You

Everything was perfect! It went flawlessly and I never worried about a thing. Every wedding should go as smooth. I really can't thank you enough. My wedding truly was FIRST CLASS!

Gordon & Karen

There are so many good things about you and your company! I fill a book with my story! I have absolutely nothing bad to say about First Class Weddings. Neither does Ray, and he is a very picky person! We are so grateful to you for the day you gave us; I am convinced there is no one on earth who could have done a better job than you. From picking the best spot for the ceremony, to having water ready to wipe the cake off my face, you handled every detail with the poise, forethought, and professionalism of a well seasoned veteran. Whenever I get the chance to refer someone to you, I do. Whenever I think of my wedding, I think of you and how wonderful you made my day. I can't thank you enough for that.

Ray & Deanna

Thank you for running such a "First Class" business. It's an honor to play for the events you coordinate! I am pleased to work with you whenever I do, and once again, Mahalo Nui Loa for everything.

Celia Canty, Harpist

Thank you so much for everything. Jon, family, our friends and myself truly appreciate all you did. The wedding was a dream come true for both of us. We thank you also for all your expertise and knowing of the best Minister, Musician, Caterer, Photographers, Dress Presser, Hair Designer Everyone was excellent! Thanks Again!

Jon & Kim





Thank  
You

We just wanted to thank you for coordinating our wedding to perfection! Your efforts allowed us to enjoy our day without stress. Donald and I were completely impressed with your attention to detail, experience and professionalism. Thanks for the Fairy Tale!

Donald & Christine

When we started talking a year ago I never thought this day would arrive. Now we're here and everything has fallen in to place perfectly. Thank you for turning our dreams into reality. You really are the best and we couldn't have gotten here without you!

Chris & Christine

We had a wonderful time! Thank you sooo much for your help. Thanks to you, things went very smoothly and just the way we wanted. I will definitely refer any friends interested in getting married in Hawaii to you. Thanks again for taking care of us.

Suzi & Mike

Dear First Class Weddings,

Thank you so much for making this such a smooth, easy process, especially on limited time (and with a flaky bride!). I'm always touched and amazed by the aloha spirit whenever I come to Hawaii, and I'm grateful to have met such nice people. Thanks for always being so patient and sweet, well never forget how wonderful you made our wedding experience.

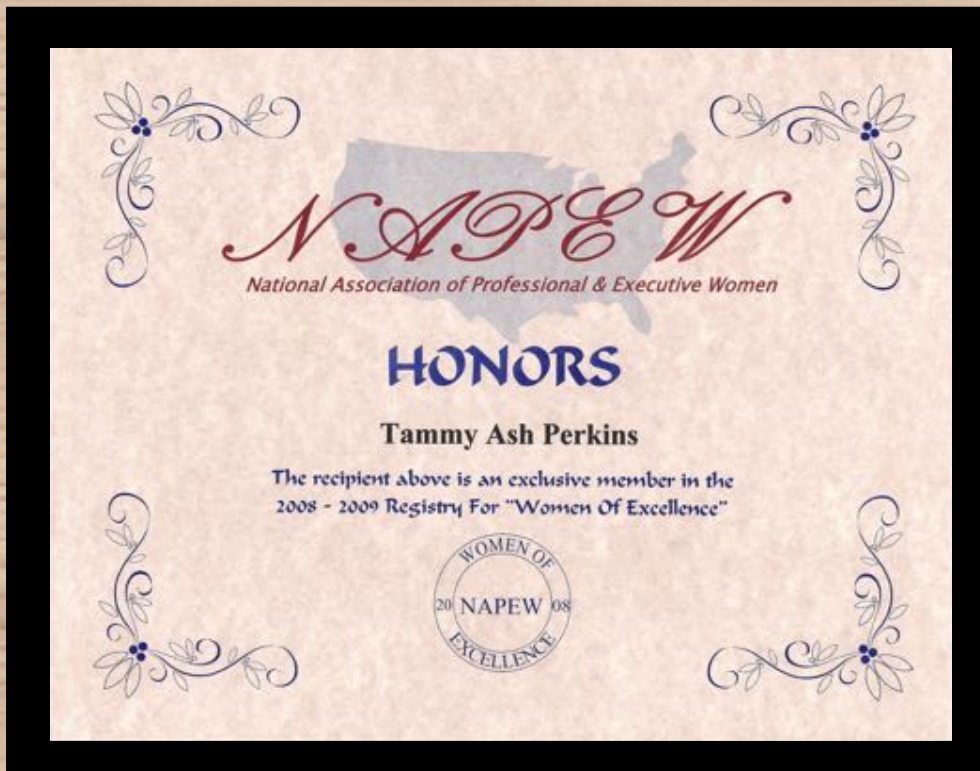
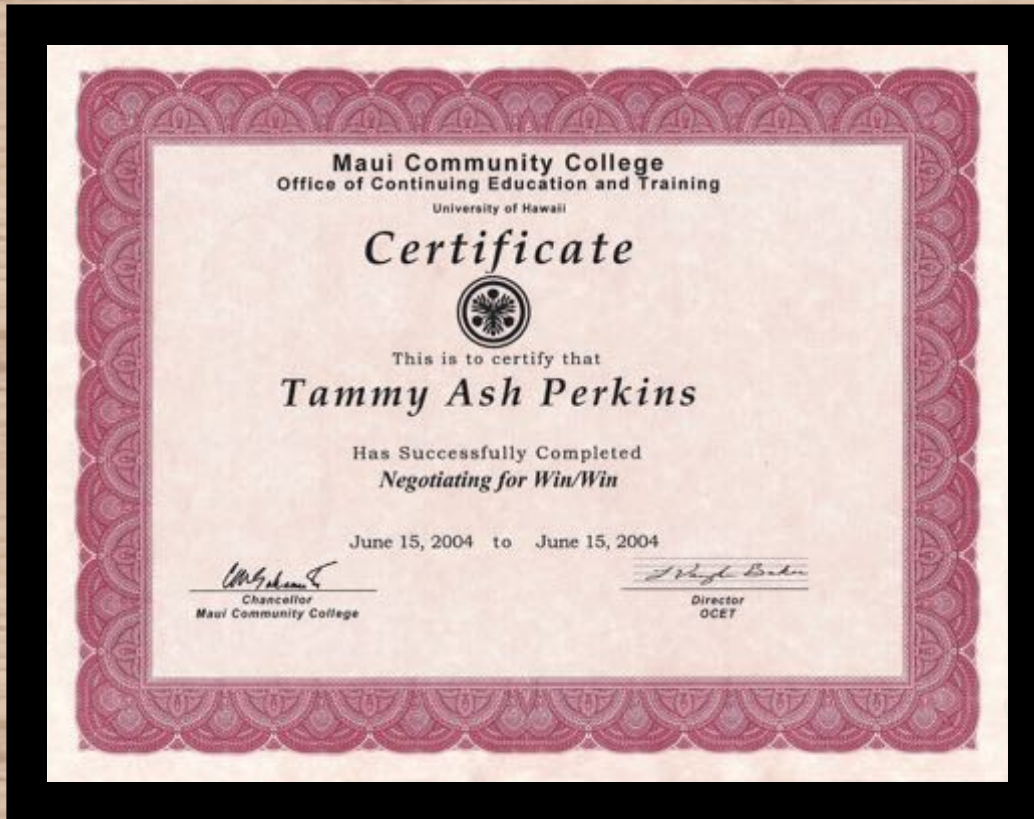
All the best,

Susie & James

# OLD CERTIFICATIONS



# Certifications



# Certifications

