

MARTHA STEWART

627 Fresh Ideas!

# Weddings

Mix & Match  
'Maids:  
Dresses in  
Every Hue

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BIG-DAY  
JEWELRY  
THAT WILL  
LAST A  
LIFETIME

PLUS  
Pack That  
Sunscreen!  
The Hottest  
Beaches  
Right Now

**SIMPLY  
CHIC**

Dreamy Gowns,  
Desserts,  
Flowers, Décor  
& More!

## Go for a Swim . . .

Want to get up-close-and-personal with some wildlife? Why not take the aquatic route?



### . . . WITH PIGS IN THE BAHAMAS

Bonding with crazy-cute pigs on the Exumas' Pig Island has become an island-goer's rite of passage. Book a four-hour excursion from Island Routes via Sandals Emerald Bay (from \$299 per person per night, all-inclusive; [sandals.com](http://sandals.com)); you'll sail by catamaran to meet the porcine wonders and seek out endangered Bahamian rock iguanas on nearby islands.



### . . . WITH MANATEES IN FLORIDA

Citrus County, on the Gulf Coast, is the only place in North America where you can swim with West Indian manatees. Post up at the Plantation on Crystal River (from \$109 per night, [plantationoncrystalriver.com](http://plantationoncrystalriver.com)) to snorkel daily with the playful, lazy sea cows, which seek out the 72-degree waters from October through March.



### . . . WITH STINGRAYS IN BELIZE

This tiny Central American country fronts the Northern Hemisphere's longest barrier reef, home to incredible dive sites like Shark Ray Alley. You can almost touch the giant rays on a snorkeling excursion, courtesy of the outfitter at the new Mahogany Bay Resort & Beach Club, Curio—A Collection by Hilton (from \$289 per night, [mahoganybayvillage.com/resort](http://mahoganybayvillage.com/resort)).



### . . . WITH CAPE FUR SEALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Suit up in the cute beach town of Simon's Town (where Shark Explorers is based). You'll LOL into your snorkel watching these ocean clowns dip and dive as you approach. Retreat to Cape Town's luxe Silo Hotel (from \$1,140 per night, [theroyalportfolio.com/the-silo](http://theroyalportfolio.com/the-silo)) for a hot shower and a two-person Mouille Point mule cocktail.



### JUST BACK FROM

## Madrid

Editor in chief Amy Conway's swoon-worthy week abroad.

On a recent trip, I fell in love. A few days in Madrid and a few more in Basque Country, up north, and I was head over heels with Spain. I was wooed by the capital's hipness and history, the countryside's charm, the friendly people, and, of course, the food. Some highlights:

**Urso Hotel & Spa** ([hotelurso.com/en](http://hotelurso.com/en)), where modern chic meets old-world elegance, was a gorgeous home base at the edge of Madrid's trendy Chueca neighborhood. The city is wonderfully walkable, and en route to world-class museums such as Museo del Prado and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, we popped into Mercado de San Miguel and Mercado de San Antón (food markets) for local fare—a croqueta and slice of tortilla española here, jamón ibérico and fresh oysters there. We couldn't resist dining at the world's oldest restaurant, **Restaurante Botín** ([botin.es](http://botin.es)), founded in 1725; it was touristy, but hey, we were tourists, and the suckling pig was divine. Later, while staying with friends in a village outside Pamplona, we day-tripped to beach city San Sebastián for a tasting tour of pintxos (small bites) with **Mimo San Sebastián** ([mimofood.com](http://mimofood.com)). Our guide led us from bar to bar, ordering local wines and enticing pintxos: lamb with mini sea asparagus, veal cheek in red wine, anchovy with spider crab. We even learned a few Basque phrases, including what you say when you raise a glass: "*Osasuna!*" ("To your health.")



## Glamping Roundup

Get away from it all at a new crop of upscale "camping" retreats. Montana has never been so luxe as at the **Resort at Paws Up** (from \$650 per person per night, all-inclusive; [pawsup.com](http://pawsup.com)); brave the aerial ropes course, then soak in a bronze tub overlooking the Blackfoot River. Take California's Highway 1 to **Ventana Big Sur, An Alila Resort** (from \$675 per night, [ventanabigsur.com](http://ventanabigsur.com)) to sleep among redwoods and try Indonesian-style spa treatments. Get your thrills with hikes, canyoneering, and horseback rides at Utah's **Under Canvas Moab** (from \$229 per night, [undercanvas.com](http://undercanvas.com)). Back east: Minimoon with **Collective Retreats**, on New York City's Governors Island (from \$500 per night, [collectiveretreats.com](http://collectiveretreats.com)), eight minutes by ferry from Manhattan.