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CELEBRITY CHEF
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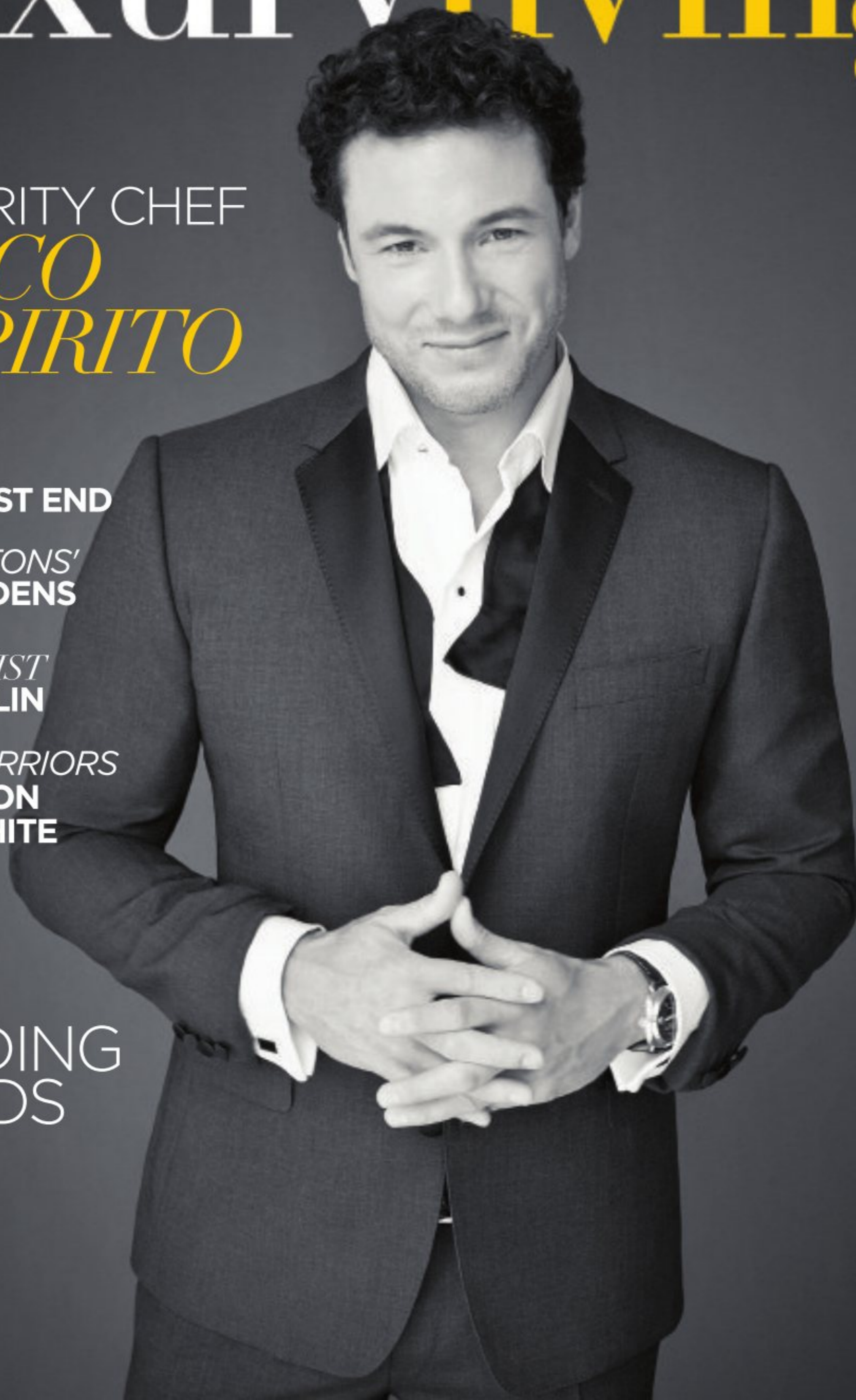
CHICEATS
ON THE EAST END

THE HAMPTONS'
GREY GARDENS

LOCAL ARTIST
KEVIN BERLIN

WATER WARRIORS
**MATT DAMON
& GARY WHITE**

2017
**WEDDING
TRENDS**





WEDDING *TRENDS* 2017

By Claudia Gryvatz Copquin

LET'S ADMIT IT—WEDDING PLANNING CAN BE UNIQUELY STRESSFUL... BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE FUN. A WEDDING IS THE PERFECT OCCASION TO LET YOUR CREATIVITY FLOW SO THAT THE END RESULT IS A FESTIVE EVENT THAT LEAVES GUESTS AND THE NEWLYWEDS WITH A HIGHLY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. HOW TO ACHIEVE THAT? BY INCORPORATING SPECIAL ELEMENTS INTO THE TRADITIONAL MUST-HAVES. HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT'S TRENDING. »



Clockwise from above: A monochromatic color scheme sets the tone. A wishing tree is a fun and whimsical way for guests to express their thoughtful well-wishes to the newlyweds. Photo credit: Michael Russo. Make a grand exit with doves, special music or sparklers upon leaving the reception. Photo credit: Fiona Conrad.

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There are myriad ways to customize weddings. According to Michael Russo Events, based on Long Island and in Manhattan, one easy and surprising addition would be table numbers that match the wedding style. So omit the plastic ones, and use your imagination. Another unique idea: “A wedding wish tree! This is a trendy way for guests to jot down thoughtful messages without the traditional book,” says Russo.

A monochromatic color scheme is very current, he adds, but do also go green! Create cool photo ops with a wall of gorgeous succulents and orchid blossoms or with a flowering boxwood wall. These are lovely and unusual backdrops for photos and wedding toasts.

And for a high-tech wow-factor, transform the entire venue into a living work of art with moving images and special lighting created by projection image mapping.

GRAND FINALE

“We love that exits are making a comeback in a fresh and fun way,” says Stair. “The bigger and more dramatic, the better. Too often the newlyweds are still at the venue until the last guest is gone and the house lights come up, which is very anticlimactic.” Stair suggests a big send-off with sparklers, the horns section of your band or fancy fiddling to march you out. “Not only does this make for a fantastic photo op—it provides an important sense of closure to your event.” **LL**

Claudia Gryvatz Copquin is a freelance journalist, author and founder of Word Up: Long Island LitFest.