

THE *Bride's Guide*
From the Experts of Martha Stewart Weddings.

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Expert Advice: Denise Wilder of Viceroy Anguilla

Posted by Britni Wood

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Located on the island of Anguilla in the British West Indies, is one of the most luxurious, breathtakingly beautiful resorts in world. The newly opened [Viceroy Anguilla](#) is a sight to see. The famed Kelly Wearstler of [Kelly Wearstler Interior Design](#) is known for her eccentric style and she has truly constructed a masterpiece of this island jewel. The island is easy to get to, being just a short boat ride away from St. Maarten which most air carriers fly in to, making it an amazing location for having your wedding. Denise Wilder is the Events Coordinator at the hotel and I've asked her a few questions about planning a wedding abroad. She has some wonderful advice for brides wanting a destination wedding and maybe you'll even be saying your "I do's" in Anguilla.



Britni Wood: Congratulations on the opening of the Viceroy Anguilla! Can you tell us a little bit about the events you have hosted at the hotel and describe some of your beautiful event spaces?

Thank you! Viceroy Anguilla has some truly amazing spots to host a wedding or special event. In fact, we have already hosted several weddings, a gala dinner and a Beach Barbeque Reception for 40, to name a few. On the property there are many breathtaking spots to host memorable events, including a bluff facing west for incredible sunsets, two wonderful beaches and an amazing restaurant set directly perched over the water with a 180 degree view of the sea called Cobra. The restaurant seats up to 200 people and is the perfect venue for an elegant wedding reception.

BW: What can a bride expect when planning a wedding on an island, and more specifically, Anguilla? Are there some secrets to making sure the event comes together as easily as it would in a hometown?

At Viceroy Anguilla, we have dedicated staff to make the process as easy as possible. Whether it's accompanying the bride and groom to file the requisite paperwork, sorting the day-of details or assisting with last minute needs, our staff is here to make the experience as pleasant as possible.

With so many islands to choose from for destination weddings, the key is to pick an island and a resort that already fits their personalities and taste even before the decorations go up. If they already love the place before they put their own spin on things, everything will be that much easier and stress free.

BW: What activities do you suggest your brides plan for their out-of-town guests? How do you make sure everyone from young to old are thoughtfully acknowledged during the event?

Once a bride and groom have booked their wedding with us, we speak with the couple at length to help understand their vision, expectations and interests. Anguilla's beaches and off islands are so beautiful that we might suggest a day excursion on a catamaran or power boat for swimming, snorkeling and lunch at a beach restaurant of grilled lobster and rum punch. If there are kids in the group Viceroy has plenty to offer as far as beach games for young and old alike. One of my favorites is a good old fashioned crab race!

BW: What are some of the great ideas you have seen the bride and groom add to their destination wedding to make it personal and special for them and their guests?

We had a family wedding here where the bride and groom had five children between them from previous marriages, and all boys too! The did a ceremony within their wedding vows where each of them had a different glass of colored sand or stones that they poured in to a large glass bowl. By the end they had this beautiful piece of art expressing the union of the two families in a very unique way.

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BW: I know every day is beautiful in Anguilla, but are the times of the year that the weather is especially predictable and thus, a better time to plan a wedding in the caribbean?

I think that the best weather in Anguilla is anywhere from November through July. The other months have less predictability due to hurricane season.

BW: And finally, how much do you love your job?

I absolutely love my job! I get to live on this beautiful island with its wonderful people and I get to work here at Viceroy Anguilla, which is truly one of the most spectacular resorts in the world. The other part that I love is getting to know many of the guests who come here to enjoy this very special place.

