REAL BRIDE takeover!
14 BRIDES-TO-BE GUEST EDIT THIS ISSUE
They talk... cakes, flowers, dresses, DIYs & honeymoons

10 OF THE chicest weddings
(chosen by our real brides)

MEET OUR REAL BRIDE COVER STAR Gayle

YOUR BIGGEST BUDGET & ETIQUETTE DILEMMAS SORTED
ROAD TO Romance

Newlyweds Lucy and Ralph hit the east coast highways of the US for a star-spangled adventure

Days 1-3

Our all-American honeymoon started off at a leisurely pace in Massachusetts on the picture-perfect and relaxing island of Nantucket, just off the coast of Cape Cod. First stop was the White Elephant, a romantic boutique hotel on the water's edge, where our gorgeous room came with a private terrace and dramatic harbour views. Keen to enjoy the New England lifestyle to the full, we dined on classic dishes such as clam chowder and lobster rolls at the hotel's Brant Point Grill. The White Elephant was just a short stroll from Nantucket's cobbled Main Street where we found independent boutiques, bars and restaurants. We soon discovered though that the best way to see the island was on the back of hire bikes, so we could take advantage of...
Rhode Island to admire the Art Deco-style mansions of Newport. Here we set off on the long Cliff Walk to take in the sight of the most famous house in the area – The Breakers.

**Days 8-10**

We'd heard incredible things about New England in the fall, so we pointed the Mustang northwards towards the White Mountains and lakes region of New Hampshire to catch a glimpse of the beautiful autumn scenes. After fueling up on 'eggs sunny side up' in a classic American diner, we hiked up the mountains taking in the breathtaking views. The day culminated in an awesome drive back down to the glistening lakes – roof down, wind in our hair, singing along to Led Zeppelin by Phoenix and reminiscing about our unconventional first dance! We rested our heads at the traditional and cozy Ballard House Inn at Lake Winnipesaukee, which is run by a lovely couple, Lynn and Brian, and their dog Newton. That night we ate at a local restaurant where Ralph managed to polish off a pound of lobster mac 'n' cheese – Matt vs. Food eat your heart out!

**Days 11-14**

After saying goodbye to the Mustang, we hopped on a train for the finale of our trip – The Big Apple. This was more than just a means of getting from A to B though. The train travelled along the Connecticut coastline, so we continued our tourist experience by looking at the picturesque views before arriving at Penn Station in Midtown Manhattan.

With so many hotels to choose from we decided to go for something completely new and oh-so-cool – The Ludlow, a Mr & Mrs Smith hotel – situated in the buzzing Lower East Side. Our suite was like something straight out of the movies with a private terrace and sweeping panoramic views of the Empire State Building. We didn't waste a second of our time in New York and full of energy from our relaxing New England break we did everything, from taking in the famous sites from The Top of The Rock and running around Central Park with the locals to getting a culture fix at The Museum of Modern Art and dining in NYC's top restaurants including Gramercy Tavern, Locanda Verde and Luosquina. We even found time to sip cocktails at The Standard rooftop terrace, walk along the High Line, discover boutiques in Soho, and both buy a whole new wardrobe at Bloomingdale's. In just two weeks we visited four states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and New York), walked over 100 miles, drank countless cocktails and, most importantly, ignited a desire to continue discovering the world together as husband and wife – one road trip at a time.

**GETTING THERE**

- The White Elephant, from $225 per night (whiteelephanthotel.com)
- The Wauwinet, from $230 per night (wauwinet.com)
- XV Beacon Hotel, from $355 per night (xvbeacon.com)
- The Ballard House Inn, from $120 per night on B&B basis (ballardhouseinn.com)
- The Ludlow, from $325 per night (ludlowhotel.com)