

Town & Country WEDDINGS

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

THE SEASON'S
BEST
DRESSES

FOUR
FABULOUS
REAL
WEDDINGS

BEAUTY
BOOSTS
FOR THE
BIG DAY

CLASSIC VS.
MODERN
BOUQUETS
SECRETS
FROM
THE TOP
PLANNERS

\$4.95



The bride wears
Pronovias

2 Themed Welcome Bags

What It Is: Small offerings for out-of-town guests that highlight the place or mood of your wedding.

Why We Love It: We all get oddly excited about that gift bag waiting for us at hotel check-in—especially if it contains more than the standard Advil and bag of peanuts.

The Details: The trick with a welcome tote is to make the elements reflect the locale without getting too kitschy. Though many brides whip up bags themselves—a simple trip to Target will get you mass quantities of flip-flops, sunscreen, and margarita mix for your beachside reception—you can get one more thing off your plate by hiring one of the new custom bag companies that ship throughout the country. Navy & Lavender cofounder Michal Mufson offers pre-

packaged city-themed welcome totes.

(A “City of Angels” bag, for instance, offers

California-themed playing cards and “movie theater” gourmet popcorn, among other items, for about \$36.) And brides can customize them with various add-ins.

“Couples send us maps, a name of a favorite shop, or a local sweet,” says Mufson, who then procures all the elements. The bags themselves can be personalized too; for a groom who played in a mariachi band, Nancy Amster Owen of Austin-based Favors You Keep added a mariachi costume to the image of the groom on one tote. — SARAH HAIGHT

