

ALL WHITE ON THE NIGHT

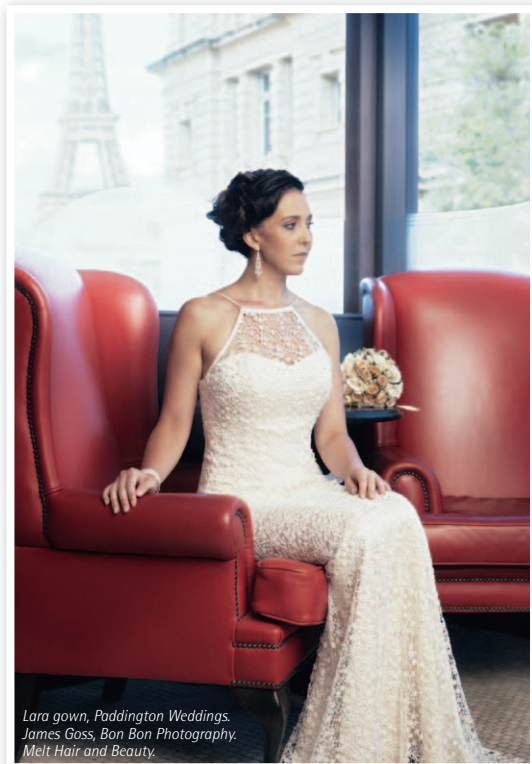
Planning a destination wedding? There is one key item that may have you feeling a little worried, and that is: THE DRESS and how to get it safely there ...

We asked some very experienced wedding dress designers for their advice on making sure your wedding gown arrives in perfect condition. The golden rule seems to be that you must take it with you as carry-on luggage. So make sure the packed gown will fit within the airline's baggage allowance. Tell your designer that you will be having a destination wedding so that suitable gowns will be suggested from the outset.

HAVE GOWN, WILL TRAVEL

Wendy Makin from Wendy Makin Couture says "if a bride is travelling a distance we like to pack the gown in plastic first, so it can't be water damaged, then we fold it in acid-free paper and then into a 'flight box'. Make sure this box is an approved size with the airline so you can take it as hand luggage, and travel with your jewellery separately as you don't want to have to open your box at security because of the metal detected".

Pina Fiorenza from Fiorenza Collections suggests wrapping your gown and veil with tissue paper in between the folds so the fabric does not touch itself, and to ensure your veil is always placed at the back of the garment bag behind your gown so the zip doesn't snag the delicate tulle. She also suggests you cover the coat hanger gap at the top of the bag so that nothing can get in. Pina heard of one bride who learnt the hard way when she ended up with red dust over the top of her dress whilst travelling to her outback wedding. You have been warned.



Lara gown, Paddington Weddings.
James Goss, Bon Bon Photography.
Melt Hair and Beauty.

WEDDING DRESS NO-NO'S

"Never try and press your gown yourself or trust your friend or family to press your gown. Delicate fabrics are very easy to burn."

Gill Hulse, Paddington Weddings

"Don't leave your gown in a plastic bag if you have arrived in a humid climate as it will 'sweat' in the bag."

Wendy Makin, Wendy Makin Couture

FAVOURED FABRICS

Pina Fiorenza from Fiorenza Collections suggests soft organza or chiffon and says "lace is a great fabric too as it doesn't crease or crush". She does not recommend Thai silk as it tends to wrinkle quite easily.

Gill Hulse from Paddington Weddings recommends natural fabrics for a destination wedding, "especially if it is somewhere hot. These fabrics are lighter and easier to travel with and carry onboard the aircraft. They are also much more comfortable to wear on the day".

Wendy Makin from Wendy Makin Couture recommends "light fabrics like tulle or georgette" and says dupion silk is surprisingly good as well.



Lucia gown, Fiorenza Collections

ON ARRIVAL

"When you arrive, the first thing to do is to take your gown and veil out of their bag and hang them up high for a day or so to let the creases fall out.

If you have a wedding planner at your destination, talk to them about who they would recommend if you need to have your gown steam pressed rather than just going with anyone."

Gill Hulse, Paddington Weddings

"I am not a believer in the bathroom cure (using the steam from a shower to let the wrinkles 'fall') - the gown may be dropped into something or the shower may get turned on before someone realises there's a dress in there. Use a hairdryer underneath the skirt to warm up the dress so that the wrinkles fall out. If it has been properly pressed by your dress designer you should have minimal wrinkles on arrival."

Pina Fiorenza, Fiorenza Collections



Cashmere gown, Roz Ja Kelin Bridal