

Ozzy Garcia
travels
to Maui to
photograph couture
gowns in a painterly
setting by the sea.
Luxurious velvets
mixed with magnolia,
gardenia and ocean
elements create a
romantic
mise en scène.

Velvet Sea

CONCEPT + STYLING BY ROBYN IAEA + SHAUNNA NYGREN | CONTRIBUTING STYLING BY CAROLEE HIGASHINO | FLORAL DESIGN BY FONG TAGAWA | STATIONERY BY CECI NEW YORK | FURNITURE, PROPS + CHUPPAH BY SIGNATURE BOUTIQUE EVENT RENTALS | HAIR BY DAN SANCHEZ | MAKEUP BY LIZ JAVELOSA | JEWELRY BY SOPHIE GRACE | GOWNS BY MONIQUE LHUILLIER, REEM ACRA, WHITE BY VERA WANG | HEADPIECES BY TWIGS & HONEY + UNTAMED PETALS | FLOWER GIRL DRESS BY VINDIE BABY | BONNET BY STARLITES CHILD FLOWER GIRL SHOES BY BÉBÉ SHOOZ | FLORAL HALO BY MANDY GRACE | VELVET RIBBON BY SARA KATE STUDIOS + MIDORI | VELVET LETTERPRESS CARD BY VELVET RAPTOR | SHELL PLACE CARD HOLDERS BY BEACHY CHIC DÉCOR | CORAL COURTESY OF BY THE BAY, PAIA SHOT ON LOCATION AT WHITE ORCHID BEACH HOUSE, MAUI





The White Orchid Beach House on Maui's most breathtaking shore is a heavenly oasis with "Old Hawaii" charm. The private estate, with its expansive oceanfront lawn framed by black lava, is a fitting scene for a wedding reception inspired by the curiosities of the sea. The element of surprise in the tropical setting of yesteryear is velvet, a wintery and sophisticated fabric selected for its wonderful sheen and depth of color. As timeless as the wedding itself, bespoke velvets were once a royal status symbol worn centuries ago by nobility and high society. During the renaissance, the luxurious woven silk textile was an expression of power, wealth and taste, subtly hinting at one's family history.

{OPPOSITE} Boasting a muted palette, the ocean-laden tablescape is a testament to the luxury of simplicity. At first glance, the antique-ivory French farm table belies its extraordinary details. A pale pistachio velvet runner grounds the wooden table. The ubiquitous hue is reminiscent of the Paris baker Ladurée's most revered macarons. Spanning the length of the table are age-old tarnished brass vessels brimming with unusual blossoms: apricot parrot tulips, Sarah Bernhardt blush peonies, "work stem" gardenias and yellow cockscombs. Honolulu florist Fong Tagawa of Floral Inspirations incorporated the velvety *Stachys byzantina* flower, commonly-known as Lamb's Ear, into the arrangements. A pair of sparkling crystal chandeliers stands at eye level framing the table for the ultimate in Old World elegance. A European velvet bench is tucked aside the farm table for dinner. Hand-carved oak French dining chairs display the elegant restraint emblematic of neoclassicism.

{ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT} The bride holds a velvet greeting card, hand-debossed on a 19th-century press by Velvet Raptor. Dinner menus written in ornate script sit at each place setting atop driftwood chargers and cream plates. Antique Sheffield Silver and bone flatware are gently tied with a luxurious French silk ribbon by Sara Kate Studios. Place cards by stationer Ceci New York rest in delicate sea urchins, a natural shade of the palest pink. A glass botanist's bell jar houses an exotic magnolia branch. The bride and her maid look ethereal in WHITE by Vera Wang Collection.

