InStyle

CELEBRITY LIFESTYLE

Celebrity
Weddings
96 pages of
Gowns & Shoes
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19 Couples Who
Tied the Knot

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If you want the look of the
movie-star bride

Something Old, Something New

photographed by Charles Maraia

These brides defined wedding style for their era—and some for a lot longer. Take a peek at the dresses that made us swoon, and see how you too can get the look

As a one-time-only garment, a wedding dress has a lot of work to do—fast. "It needs to express who you are and how you want to be seen," says Judy Collinson, a general merchandise manager of Barneys New York, which opened its new bridal atelier last year. A good one flatters your body—but a great one embodies you. And with these seven celebrity brides, there was something more. Their gowns not only reflected their tastes, lifestyle and self-image but also managed to capture a moment in time. From Elizabeth Taylor's wasp-waist white satin gown to Princess Diana's tower of taffeta to Cindy Crawford's sexy slip, these gowns touched a nerve, altering the bridal fantasies of women everywhere and proving once and for all the undeniable impact of the perfect dress.

Grace Kelly *and* **Prince Rainier III of Monaco** Grace Kelly did seven years' worth of work on her wedding day. By allowing MGM to film her April 19, 1956, marriage to Prince Rainier III in Monaco, she was able to dissolve her seven-year contract with the studio. Fittingly, her gown was equal parts royal couture (with a bodice made from 125-year-old Brussels lace) and Hollywood extravagance (MGM costume designer Helen Rose used 25 yards of silk for the skirt—not counting the 10-foot train). Says Sandy Schreier, author of the forthcoming book *Hollywood Gets Married* (Clarkson Potter, February 2002), not getting to design Grace's gown broke the heart of costume designer Edith Head. "Edith was the one who had shots of Grace taken over to the palace" during the filming of *To Catch a Thief*, explains Schreier. "She was the matchmaker." *The update: Josephine Sasso silk taffeta skirt (opposite), $951, bustier, $219, and cotton-nylon lace jacket, $498; 212-396-9692*