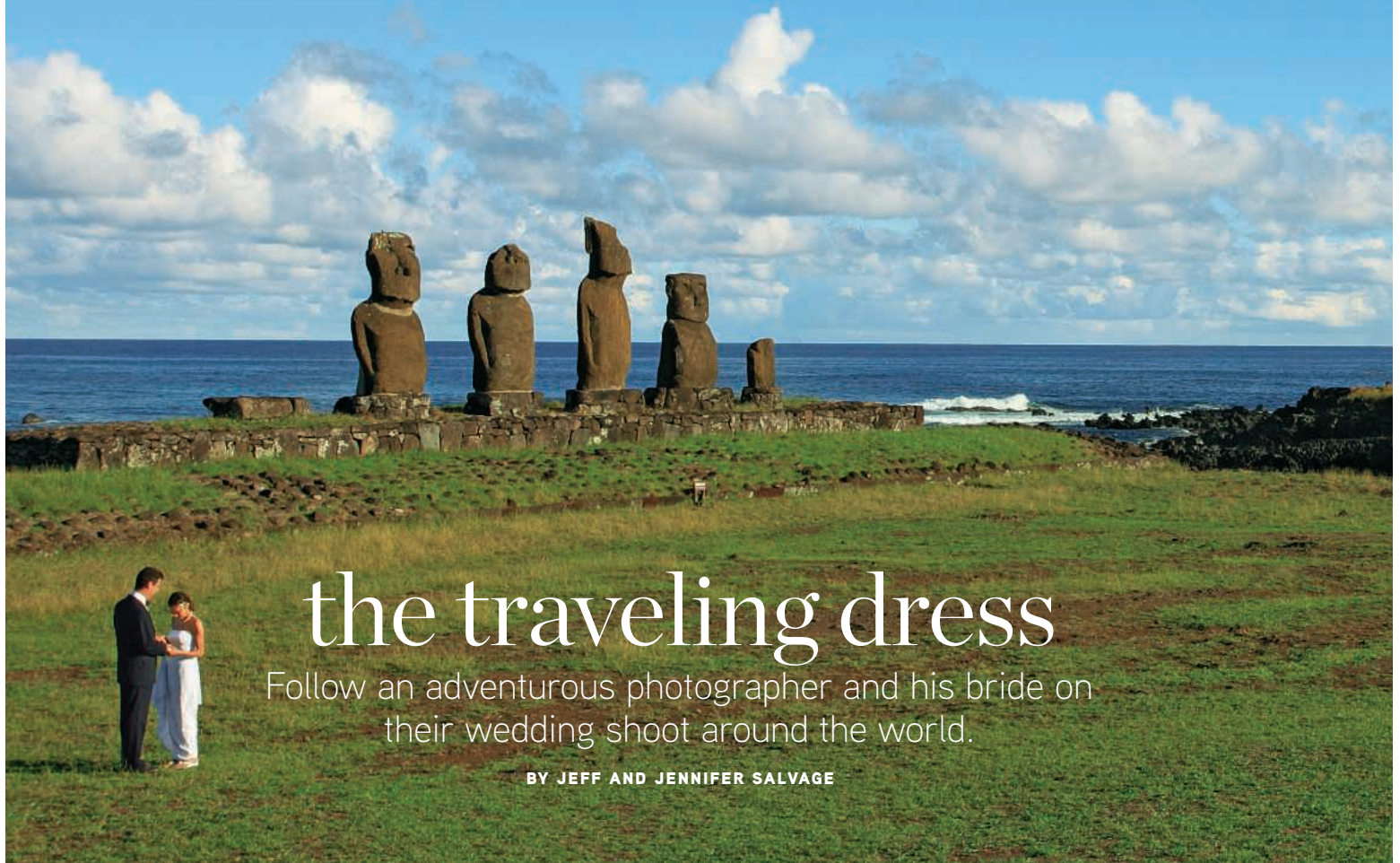


EASTER ISLAND

ever after



the traveling dress

Follow an adventurous photographer and his bride on their wedding shoot around the world.

BY JEFF AND JENNIFER SALVAGE

Between the two of us, my then-fiancée, Jennifer, and I had traveled to South America, Asia, Africa, Australia, Central America and Europe. So when it came time to choose the location for our destination wedding, we had some specific criteria: We wanted a place off the beaten path that neither of us had visited and, most importantly, where we'd end up with a unique, iconic wedding photo.

It started off as a joke, but Easter Island kept topping our list. For one thing, it's the most remote landmass in the world, situated 2,237 miles off the coast of Chile. We were intrigued as much by the island's claim to fame — the 1,000-some *moai* (large stone heads) planted across the landscape — as by the uncertainty of what we would find once we got there. Before we knew it, our wishful thinking had turned into a plan: We booked plane tickets, made reservations at

Vai Moana, an unassuming bungalow hotel we'd found online, and talked five friends into flying there with us to be a part of it all; one even got ordained so he could marry us. The only thing left to do was find a dress that could be stuffed in a backpack and still look great. To our amazement, Jennifer found the perfect strapless Maggie Sottero on her first shopping trip.

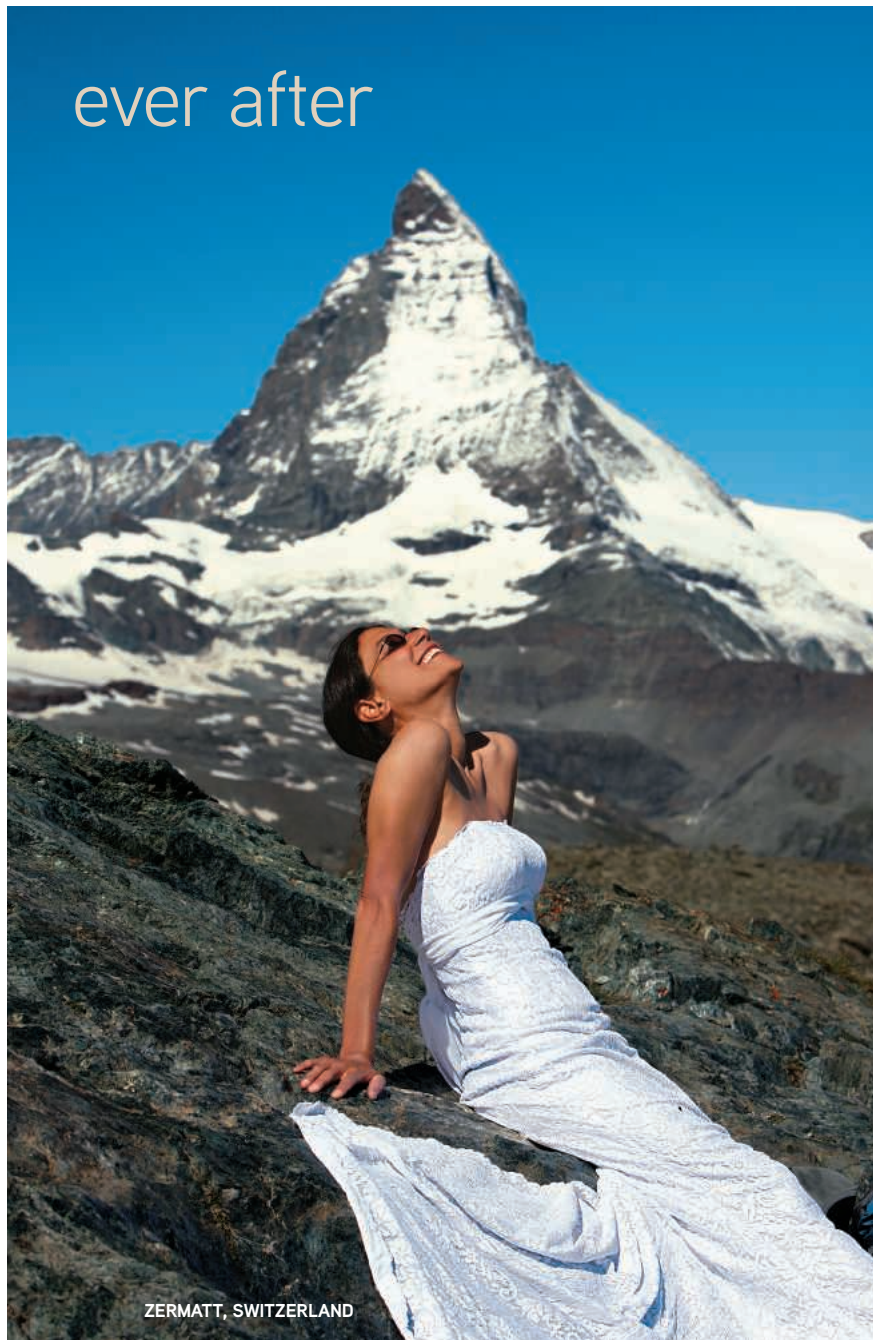
After a 16-plus hour flight from Philadelphia, we spent the first two days scouring the island for the most picturesque spot. And we found it: Rano Raraku, a 10-mile drive from our hotel on the opposite side of the island. Because of the rugged drive, random goat crossings and scorching temps, Jennifer decided to wait to change into her wedding gown until we arrived at the site. Once there, she dressed near the foot of an extinct volcano, with a moai statue standing guard and the royal blue ocean in the background. We



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had planned on an intimate ceremony with just our friends in attendance, and when we got there early in the day, we were the only people in sight. But by the time we got ready to recite our vows, our wedding party grew as some excited tourists gathered around to watch, taking pictures of us and even posing with the new bride!

All in all, it was an amazing experience. We'd found our dream remote locale and had the amazing photos to prove it. But we also quickly realized that one photo shoot would not suffice. We wanted photos of the dress in every possible light and location: hiking in the Alps, balancing on a fishing raft in China, tossing herring to hungry pelicans in Florida — even ice-skating in the backyard. So for the past year, instead of preserving the dress in the attic, we've hit the road, taking it with us everywhere. And we're still booking tickets. ■

FOR MORE INFO, SEE THE 411 ON PAGE 123.

110 destination weddings & honeymoons