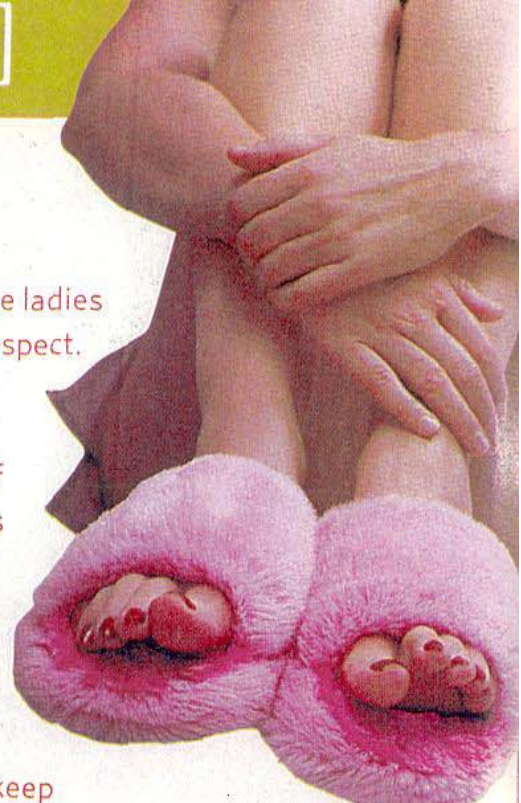


◀◀ (Continued from page 132)

GIRLY GOODS The bridezilla thing is so 2005. The ladies we love are treating their maids with gratitude and respect. At Cal-a-Vie Spa, north of San Diego, brides and pals checking in for La Petite Weekend slide **pedicured tootsies** into fuzzy pink slippers, pad off to dinner, then settle in front of twin 54" gel screens for a private showing of *An Affair to Remember* and *Sleepless in Seattle*. The late-night snack? Mini pink passion fruit slim shakes, **dark chocolate ginger cookies**, and frozen yogurt bonbons ...Back on the East Coast, we're loving the Blushing Bride, a girls-only cocktail delivered with a rose by the barkeep at New York's swanky Hôtel Plaza Athénée. If you're flying your posse in for a Big Apple getaway, consider a one-on-one shopping experience called Beckett's Black Book, which unlocks designer showrooms, snags makeovers with beauty pros, and can arrange an **evening at the fashion tents** for you and a limo-load of maids.



STEP CLASS Blame it on *Dancing With the Stars*: Couples are trading in the old let's-just-get-through-this-without-embarrassing-ourselves first dance for choreographed salsas and waltzes. He's loathe to learn? The Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale, AZ, offers ballroom lessons in a guy-friendly (major golf!) setting.

"Delta casual," and "grown and sexy" (it's a big day for etiquette when Diddy starts influencing wedding lingo). Come to think of it, the white suit—which was all over the menswear runways this year (Valentino's effort, below)—would be a hip groom's choice at any of the above.

NOT TOO SWEET Made of heirloom cocoa beans from Ecuador's Rainforest Alliance cooperatives, Veré's ultrafresh preservative-free chocolates (right) use minimal sweeteners for take-homes your guests won't guilt about.



BAD IDEA Can't figure out how to say "We love the toaster"? For a price, That's Gratitude, a thank-you-note-writing service, will do the job for you. Next up: hiring a couple to circulate among your guests and thank them for coming.

GOOD IDEA The Wedding Sitters provides child care for your youngest guests, treating the kids to a tea party and movie while you're enjoying weepy toasts. Here's hoping that this East Coast company is coming soon to a state near you.

PUP PASTRY If Freckles is doing flower dog duty, thank her with a three-layer canine wedding cake from Foppers Cuddly Critters Pet Bakery in Lafayette, Indiana; have it iced in your colors, but skip the tiny bride and groom.

CODE WHITE "Black tie optional" suddenly seems so tame. We've been seeing wedding invites suggesting appropriate dress would be "festive,"

SHADY LADY Until we saw Pamela's Parasols, we thought the whole frilly umbrella thing was way too southern belle for us. We stand corrected: These white paper parasols, decorated with your monogram, trimmed with pearls, or circled with gardenias, are much more Scarlett Johansson than Scarlett O'Hara.



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