



**MALY'S**  
**THE SALON**  
**PROFESSIONAL**

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**THE WEDDING STYLIST**

MALY'S COVER CONTEST WINNER  
CAROL CARDINALE-RUIZ  
SPECIALIZES IN BRIDAL WORK.  
TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR HER STORY.

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**THE WILDWOODS  
COLLECTION**

NATURE INSPIRES THE SPRING TREND  
FROM PAUL MITCHELL THE COLOR.  
SEE THE SHADES ON PAGE 14.

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**10 YEARS AND COUNTING**

MALY'S AND ALTERNA HELPED PLATINUM  
SALON CELEBRATE ITS ANNIVERSARY.  
READ ABOUT THE PARTY ON PAGE 4.

# THE WEDDING STYLIST



Imagine if your job took you to one of the most scenic places on earth and your artistry not only made people happy but also became a cherished memory. Welcome to the world of Carol Cardinale-Ruiz, owner of Bellissimo, a company that provides on-location hair styling and makeup for destination weddings in California's Yosemite Valley. For our Maly's Cover Contest, Carol, a Maly's customer for more than ten years, created an updo similar to her bridal work and the simple yet sophisticated style won over the judges. *Maly's The Salon Professional* talked with her to find out what it's like behind the scenes on those big days and how she handles the pressure.

## How did you get into the bridal hairstyling business?

I've been a hairstylist for 25 years and spent years training and competing in the world of high fashion hair shows. A lot of that work included finger-waves, updos, that sort of thing. I thought there had to be a way to make this into a business. Then one of my clients was getting married and asked me to do her hair and it just took off from there.

## Tell us about your business.

We do hair and makeup for the hundreds

of people getting married in Yosemite. It's so beautiful there. They come from around the world and I've had clients from China, all over Europe and the United States. We do the entire wedding party, hair and makeup, the total look. I work with five stylists and makeup artists and I train them all. For 90 percent of the weddings—and I did 125 weddings last year—I am meeting the bride for the first time the day of the ceremony.

## That must be challenging!

I don't consider it a challenge. Because of being in the competition field for so long, I like the pressure. I thrive in these situations. Usually, the bride-to-be has just woken up and I don't know how she looks on a regular basis. I bring my portfolio, we look at the dress and veil together and we decide on a style. A lot of success comes with listening to what she likes and doesn't like and not being afraid to ask her if she likes what I'm doing. If she wants something changed, it never hurts my feelings.

## Have you ever had an out-of-control "bridezilla"?

No, and I've never had someone say I don't like what you did. Communication is key. But I did have a situation about



**Maly's Cover Contest Winner:**  
Carol Cardinale-Ruiz,  
Bellissimo, Oakhurst, CA.

four years ago, where the person who hired me kept adding more and more people. I was working a New Year's Day wedding with one other person. We were there to do a bridal party of 14 and we ended up doing 28 people! But sometimes that's when your best work comes out.

**Do you have any advice for stylists who want to work with brides?**

Realize that you have to be concerned about the bride and how she feels. Always listen. Take classes on the high-art of styling—fingerstyling, updos. Don't have a heavy hand and remember, the hair should never be hard. When you're pulling hair up, there may not be great haircolor underneath. You have to work

around that by molding the hair and yet still making it look soft.

**How did you create the hairstyle on the cover?**

The model has shoulder-length hair and I added a lot of curl the old fashioned way—with rollers, backbrushing and a little bit of spray oil. I molded it in, did a twist and knots, pinned a bracelet in the front and sprayed it with L'anza Shine Glistener. When it comes to wedding hair, I try to be unique and original with every person. I don't like to duplicate hairstyles. I see my work as a passion and totally art.

If you're interested in learning more about Carole Cardinale-Ruiz, visit [www.bellissimobrides.com](http://www.bellissimobrides.com). ■



Photography: Kenny Bain/Amotifion Imagery