

OCEAN DRIVE

Why You'll Want to Attend Destination Fashion at Bal Harbour Shops

By Rachel Felder | November 10, 2015 | [Culture](#)

Dynamic duo Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard and Suzy Sayfie offer a sneak peek at the year's most exclusive fashion event: Destination Fashion.



The runway at Destination Fashion.

Miami has no shortage of chic charity galas, but [Destination Fashion](#), a star-studded event that raises money for [The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis](#), may well be the most spirited. That's due in part to the buoyant mother-daughter team that puts it together: Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard, who oversees events at [The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis](#)/The Buoniconti Fund, and her mother, Suzy Sayfie, the fund's executive director and a leading local philanthropist. To get Miamians excited for this year's fundraiser—scheduled for March 5, 2016, at the [Bal Harbour Shops](#)—the duo will present a pre-event on November 12, designed to raise money for The Miami Project, one of the foremost institutions for spinal cord injury research, while honoring noteworthy women of the community.

What is Destination Fashion?

Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard: We transform the parking lot [at Bal Harbour Shops] into a fashion arena. It's a major fashion show by a name designer—we've had Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, Emilio Pucci—and there's also an incredible concert, a dinner, and the stores donate one-of-a-kind auction items. It will be hosted by NBC News icon Tom Brokaw.

Suzy Sayfie: We do so many things for the men, too. We have the casino, we have a cigar bar—it's unbelievable. Nobody wants to go home. The only way we can get them out is by shutting all the bars down!

How do you keep the charity component in guests' minds?

SS: At the beginning of the evening, we show a video. It's so powerful because it shows exactly what we do here. It puts everybody in the mood so they want to help.

SSA: They can meet the faces of paralysis—it's important.

What's happening on November 12?

SSA: November 12 is the kickoff for Destination Fashion. At Destination Fashion, we honor women of substance and style—ladies who have gone above and beyond to help their communities, not only [by raising] money for The Miami Project, but whatever their cause may be. We're auctioning off a car that night. It's kind of a sneak peek [into Destination Fashion].

The planning of these events must be a massive undertaking.

SSA: [Laughing] We have no life. I told my husband that I'll see him on March 6! It's a lot of work, but it's all done with love because we know that all the funds are going back to The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis.

SS: We love working together. Stephanie's the oldest of our daughters. We work together every day, but on every event we do together, all of the girls volunteer. We're a very close-knit, happy family.

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