

# 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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