



**DAVID FRAGOSO  
AND  
JOANNE LOW**

when  
28 MARCH 2009

where  
VILLA ATAS  
OMBAK, BALI

words  
MABEL TAN  
photography  
GABRIEL MENDES  
& 39 EAST  
makeup and hair  
STUDIO 5, BALI  
wedding planner  
HEAVEN'S GIFT

# Villa With a View

The magnificent vistas offered at Bali's Atas Ombak were the perfect backdrop for the wedding of David Fragoso and Joanne Low and their 90 guests



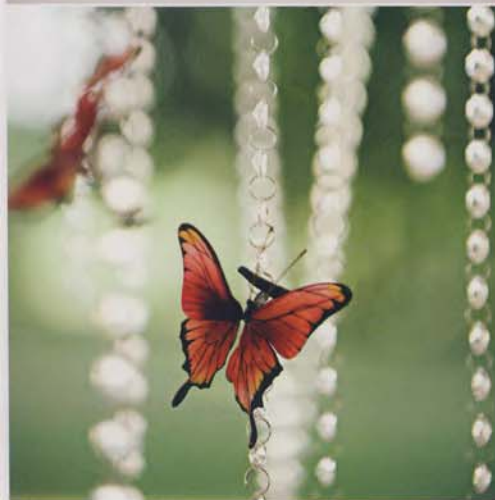


**F**renchman David Fragoso and Singaporean Joanne Low first laid eyes on each other while partying with friends at a popular club in Hong Kong three years ago. Although he was a trader, the 34-year-old cheekily introduced himself as a painter, and Joanne was convinced. “I continued talking to him because I thought it was an interesting job he had,” says Joanne. “It was only three months later that I found out it was not true!”

Still, Joanne enjoyed David’s company as he had a wicked sense of humour. “He also had a different perspective on life, which made him an engaging conversationalist,” says the 31-year-old lawyer. David agrees. “Our conversations were always animated, and as a Frenchman, this is the way I believe it should be.” He also felt that with Joanne’s bubbly personality, he would never be bored sharing his life with her. “Our differences made us a solid couple,” says David, who proposed to Joanne during their trip in France.

**number of gowns: 3**

Joanne had a wedding and evening gown, and a party dress for the celebration. She found her dream dresses — all classy and enhanced her silhouette beautifully — from Lusan Mandongus in Hong Kong.



### Decisions Decisions

Since moving to Asia, David fell in love with Bali and has travelled there frequently for holidays. And his favourite villa in Bali is Atas Ombak. Naturally, the couple decided to tie their nuptials there. "Atas Ombak is classy and simple with a magnificent view. I always thought that this would be the perfect place to hold our wedding," David shares.

To assist them with their grand bridal bash, the couple engaged wedding consultant, Hannah Chong from Heaven's Gift. "I needed a wedding planner whom I could trust and communicate with. Chong's creations impressed me the most, and I love her work ethics too," says Joanne.





### Preparations

While Atas Ombak had a spacious lawn that's great for the luxurious wedding, Chong still had to construct the entire setting for the event — 11 Mongolian tents with ambient lighting set around the shimmering pool that had a floating stage and dance floor.

Themed “Enchanted Bali,” Chong took the couple's favourite colours of yellow, green, dark red and orange, and created a romantic setting that reflected both their personalities. “We only gave the wedding planner an idea of the things we liked and didn't like, and left the rest to her,” says Joanne. To their delight, Chong coordinated all their wedding stationery, decorations and flower arrangements for the perfect set up — simple and elegant with a splash of colour.

number of  
bridesmaids and  
groomsmen: 6

It was a deliberate choice to keep the bridal party small. The three bridesmaids had tailor-made dresses in the same materials while the three groomsmen wore matching ties.





**number of shoes: 2**

To match her bridal outfits, Joanne wore a pair of Christian Louboutin and Jimmy Choo.

**Traditional Ceremony**

On 28 March 2009, the day started Joanne's bridesmaids gatecrashing the villa and proceeded to have a wild time playing game and sabotaging David and his groomsmen. Following that, they had the traditional tea ceremony as Joanne's parents felt it was important for David to be formally introduced to the family.



### The Celebration

“The ceremony was a solemn one while the banquet was a big party for everyone to celebrate the occasion with us,” says David. With that in mind, Chong created three distinct areas on the lawn for the wedding.

There was a bamboo gazebo decorated with summery red and orange chiffon cloth for David and Joanne’s solemnisation. “It looked out to the stunning sea and was very romantic,” beams Joanne. There was also a cosy chill-out corner decked with beanbags, sofa beds, and red and orange cushions where guest could unwind and relax. And for the banquet area, the pool and tables were dressed with elegant orange and red flower arrangements.

When guests arrived, they wrote their wishes on little cards and hung on them on a towering wishing tree trimmed with crystal beads and colourful butterflies.

That evening, everyone enjoyed a delightful feast catered by Mosaic, one of 100 best tables in the world and David’s favourite restaurant in Asia. Created by chef Chris Salans, the bridal menu had a combination of French cuisine and local flavours with each dish paired with a wine.



#### number of photographers: 2

The couple had two photographers to ensure that they captured all the special moments. David and Joanne did not have a pre-wedding shoot but they got Gabriel (Gabriel Mendes) and Kuang (39 East) to take some photos for them during the day.

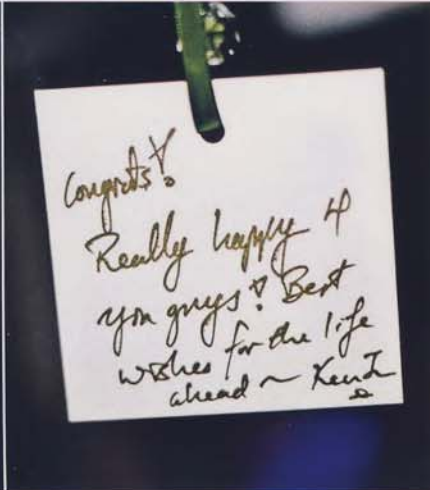


### Entertainment

In keeping the atmosphere festive and fun, the couple brought over The Disclaimers, a two-man Scottish band who plays at the Highlander bar at Clarke Quay, Singapore. "They were loads of fun and played really good music," exclaims David.

And the party mood was enlivened with DJ Kevin from Ku De Ta Bali, who got everyone dancing. "After dinner, everyone was on the dance floor, and by one in the morning, everyone was in the pool," says David. The celebration did not stop there — guests adjourned to the best man's villa for more partying until 4am!





### Fond Memories

The entire celebration was a blast, but the couple's fondest memories has to be during the speeches. "The speeches from my best man and Joanne's brother made our parents and friends laugh and cry at all the right moments," admits David, who saw his dad and grandfather weep tears of joy for the first time.

Paying respect to David's heritage, Joanne also gave a moving speech in French. "Despite having practiced it several times before, I was tripping over words and nothing was making sense," she says. But, before Joanne could finish, David's grandparents came on stage all teary-eyed to hug her and express their joy in a mix of French and Portuguese.

"There was a good mix of emotion and fun from dancing and partying. We can say that pretty much everyone enjoyed themselves," says David and Joanne.

**number of celebrations: 4**

The couple had a rehearsal dinner at Ku De Ta, a celebration at Atas Ombak and a post-party lunch by Bali Catering. They also had a dinner banquet for 100 guests in Singapore at Raffles Hotel.

**number of tables catered: 9**

For just 90 guests at the Bali bridal banquet.