

TOUCH OF CLASS





What advice can you provide for the couple?

Always trust the experts (be it wedding planner, artists or designers). They are the people who are empowered with the right skills to handle the job. I also insist on choosing a bridal party where your close friends can support you and not stress you. If time permits, take a week's leave from work and spend time with your partner over spa treatments or even dance classes. This can help build passion and excitement leading up to your big day. Best of all, spending time with your soon-to-be partner-for-life can be very rewarding. Often, when they're more relaxed and trusting, the wedding will turn out in a

beautiful way. Always remember to enjoy every moment of the wedding because the day will pass by so fast! Be bold, have fun and enjoy the company of your loved ones and friends.

What is the wedding trend for next year?

I'm witnessing more couples going for intimate weddings where the guest list is smaller and people interact with one another better. And destination weddings — holding the wedding overseas — is also a popular choice. Destination weddings have grown in demand simply because guests can have a leisure trip once the wedding is over, and people bond much better during such occasions.

THE wedding planner — she is usually the unsung heroine of the wedding. The person that puts together a wedding celebration successfully and seamlessly, such that the couple can focus on their precious time together. Working with the couple's wishes or demands in a certain time frame, it always isn't easy. And the wedding planner is expected to be visionary and creative — having the right and unique ideas to carry the theme of the wedding successfully. She has to be energetic and responsible, being able to talk to all levels of people that work with her. The role is essentially not a 'logistics person'; it is a profession that helps to realise someone's vision or desire, in this case — the bride and groom to be!

If you think this role is seriously

demanding, then Hannah Chong from Heaven's Gift, has done it all. Since 2004, she is considered one of Singapore's foremost and in-demand wedding planners. For an individual who used to be an account director of an international training and consultancy firm to become one of the city's most talented wedding planners, Hannah has come a long way. She has given couples the best experiences — from the most creative themed weddings to the most beautifully-styled nuptials. She has worked with brides and grooms of very different personalities, and creates weddings that are true reflections of her couples even within limited time and logistical constraints.



But the seasoned wedding planner is not without credentials! She's a member of the Association of Bridal Consultants in the United States, having been trained and certified by Weddings Beautiful Worldwide, a global organisation that provides professional education and certification for wedding planners across the world. With her team of planners and designers, Hannah and team continues to inspire many couples across regions with their creations. And the company's philosophy is simple: Your Story, Our Inspiration. So for a traditional wedding or no-holds-barred big day bash, Heaven's Gift is there to realise your dreams, allowing you and your guests to experience the magical moments you have ever dreamt of.



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