

# BARRELS OF HAPPINESS

*Over a romantic evening in a private hilltop location, **MARLENE LEE AND LIM EU MING** pledged their love for each other while celebrating their passions for the outdoors, food and, of course, wine*

## MARLENE & EU MING Wedding Events

### Solemnisation Ceremony

**WHEN** May 24, 2014

**WHERE** Church of St Teresa

### Wedding Reception

**WHEN** May 24, 2014

**WHERE** Alkaff Mansion

### The Vendors

**BRIDE'S OUTFITS** Monique Lhuillier/  
Trinity Gallery; Time Taken  
To Make A Dress

**GROOM'S OUTFITS** Iris Tailor

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Bragi Thor (pre-wedding);  
Bobby Kiran/Bobby Kiran Photography  
(actual day); Wansheng/FeldBeryl  
(wedding details)

**VIDEOGRAPHY** Substance Films

### MAKE-UP & HAIR

Jyue Huey/The Makeup Room

### FLOWERS

Boenga;  
Green Point Flowers (bridal party)

**PLANNER** Hannah/Heaven's Gift  
Wedding Concierge

### STATIONERY

Heaven's Gift Wedding Concierge

**CAKE** Joey/The Delights Heaven







WORDS: MELISSA GAIL SING

It was a mutual friend who first brought oil industry professionals Marlene Lee and Lim Eu Ming together back in 2008. After about eight months of dating, the pair entered into a serious relationship. For the proposal in Phuket last January, Eu Ming, with the help of a planner, orchestrated something quite spectacular.

He shares, “It started with an evening boat ride to an island for a picnic. After sunset, we sailed back to the resort where everyone on the island had been roped in

to release over 200 khom loi or floating lanterns into the sky.”

Marlene only realised she was being proposed to when Eu Ming went down on one knee: “I was so surprised because I thought it was just another diving trip. I later learned that the proposal was inspired by the floating lanterns scene in the animated movie *Tangled* which we had watched. Eu Ming recalled how I had found it so sweet. The emerald-cut engagement ring he designed made the proposal extra special.”





## THE THEME & CONCEPT

The intimate church wedding was followed by a traditional Chinese tea ceremony at Alkaff Mansion, which was also the venue for the dinner reception. Explaining why they chose the charming venue on a hill, the couple, who had their pre-wedding photos shot in Iceland, revealed that they had initially considered an overseas location where they could hold an outdoor celebration surrounded by beautiful scenes of nature. Then they chanced upon Alkaff Mansion, which had lush surrounds plus an outdoor marquee that was air-conditioned. "We felt that it was the perfect venue so we booked the entire compound," says Eu Ming.

The couple's priority was for their guests to enjoy themselves, so they wanted nothing less than the best when it came to the food,

wine and dinner setting. Wedding planner Hannah from Heaven's Gift Wedding Concierge transformed the venue into a romantic whimsical vineyard with trees, flowers and acrylic floral arrangements, creating a magical feel. A 10m high background of a wine cavern was created around the water fountain at the mansion, complete with wine barrels as props. Many guests took the opportunity to take photos at this eye-catching feature wall.

Inside the marquee, a soft pink glow set a sophisticated tone while the smooth sounds of a live band led by Wayne Sandz put guests in a party mood. Great food and wine enthusiasts, the couple opted for a wine-pairing dinner menu. Special attention was paid to the bar, which stocked a variety of top tipples, including wines and cocktails,





so guests could toast and drink to their hearts' content. Other touches added to the vineyard theme, like the specially designed wine bottles that were used as table name frames, and the bride's purple evening gown.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

The couple did away with the gate-crashing festivities that normally feature in local Chinese weddings. Eu Ming explains why: "Rather than have the traditional gate-crashing where the groom gets all sweaty and grumpy, we felt it was more meaningful to see each other for the first time on our wedding day looking our best."

When he saw Marlene walk down the aisle at the Church of St Teresa during their wedding ceremony, Eu Ming could hardly contain his emotions. "It was the most special moment," he says.

The loving couple pulled surprises on each other during the reception. First, Eu Ming unveiled a secret video he had produced that chronicled their lives together. Marlene says, "It was funny yet sweet and intimate. I was moved to tears."

In turn, she surprised him with a song, which amused him more than anything else. "Everyone had a good laugh!" she recalls. 

