



JASMINI + ROBERT

cheong fatt tze mansion, penang

A HERITAGE SHANGHAI GLAM

Their Story

The couple, Jasmini, a half Chinese, half Sri Lankan Malaysian lady and Robert, a half English, half Welsh gentleman met at university while studying in London.

Their romance budded, bloomed and blossomed over 7 years. One summer evening while on holiday in Hawaii, midway through a starlit romantic walk on the beach, a nervous Rob pulled out the ring he had been attentively guarding since they left London. Jasmini responded with a "yes", and that sparked the start of their next incredibly exciting journey together.



The Malaysian girls organized a series of challenges for the groom and his 'Heng Dai's as part of the Chinese bargaining games



The couple incorporated the traditional Chinese tea ceremony which included their overseas guests



Where was your wedding held and why did you choose this venue?

We looked at so many venues, from beach villas in Bali, to bungalows in KL, to resorts in Langkawi and beyond. None matched the dream location we were looking for until we decided to take a look into Penang. Without intention, we stumbled upon the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, a manor steep in history and culture, emanating a certain faded grandeur. "Perfect" was the word to describe what we saw. What a bonus it was too that we were also able to book the entire venue which therefore settled our accommodation requirements.

The historic building itself inspired the Shanghai Glam theme and gave us the canvas on which we could paint our event. We didn't need much added deco. All we did was to maximise the space by spreading out the variety of events we had, and by giving extra emphasis on the lighting plan. We generated lots of soft lighting and had a central dance floor which were encircled by little 'areas'. We had a chill-out area with comfy sofas, a bar, a photo booth, dessert stalls, each with their own distinct vibe.

How did you come up with such an interesting blend for your wedding?

One of the reasons we chose to get married in Asia rather than Europe was we wanted a combination of a holiday and a wedding event which would bring our families together from all over the world allowing them the opportunity to get to know each other. We did not want a quick, formal or modern event. Instead we purposely arranged that the wedding celebrations would begin in the preceding



week with events in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur among our various friends and family. These events all culminated on our actual wedding day, the event height of it all, which resulted in a perfect blend of our individual heritages. To cap it all we had a fantastic party which lasted late into the night.

Did you include any traditions in your wedding?

We had some traditions from the European side including the groom presenting the bride with a traditional Welsh 'lovespoon' and the traditional English toasts and speeches. This meant that we could blend it all together to form a new set of traditions unique to us.



DREAM TEAM

Wedding Planner: Leticia Hsu, Elysium Weddings
 Photographer: Ke Wynn, Whizarts Wedding Photography
 Florist: Bryan, Ohara Florist
 Stationer: William, The Paper Boutique & Debra, Acadia Wedding Stationery
 Baker: Love-a-cupcake
 Caterer: Traders Hotel Penang
 Wedding Favours: Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion
 Linens: T&C Décor
 Hair & Make-up: Angela Kang
 Attire: Reflections Bridal
 Entertainment: Lion Dance, Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion



After the lion dance, the couple took a short trishaw ride around Georgetown, it was a precious moment for both.

Looking back, what was your favourite project from your wedding?

The most significant part of our wedding was the blessing ceremony. The emphasis of our wedding was a celebration of love and family rather than the religious aspect. So we charned the risk by choreographing the ceremony and writing the script ourselves and asking the groom's sister to lead the blessing. It worked out so well and we definitely recommend others to do it. It made the ceremony so personal and intimate which was such a great fit into our informal family get-together theme.

What about your gorgeous dress?

Jasmini said: For the Chinese tea ceremony, I wore a traditional kebaya outfit comprising a gorgeous white kebaya top borrowed from my grandmother who wore it when she was a young lady. My grandmother's nyonya heritage is very unique and so it was a real privilege to be able to carry that with me. For the main event, I searched high and low for the perfect white dress. My supportive bridesmaid, Fran, stuck with me through it all looking for that perfect dress, thank you, Fran! It's true what they say – you just know when you see the 'right' dress. You don't pick the dress, the dress picks you! The dress itself had a timeless classic cut and once I put it on, I just didn't want to take it off.

I also carried a lovely bouquet of cascading tropical white orchids with flashes of purple in them and used some of them in my hair. It was very subtle yet effective, especially against such an eminent backdrop.

Are there any more interesting details?

The bride's sister prepared a wedding crossword with the clues being anything relating either to us or to our guests. There was a lot of friendly rivalry between the different teams in order to finish first. It also meant that our guests had a lot of opportunity to mingle and exchange answers. The dessert table was a huge attraction and someone even described it as "the best tidbits table ever!" *sw*