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Leave the headache of wedding planning to the professionals at ELYSIUM WEDDINGS

The first thing Leticia Hsu would have you know is that clients commonly assume wedding planners to function as decorators, stylists or designers. Instead she describes professional planners are first and foremost experts at planning logistics. Add in an uncanny sense for timing and the ability to foresee event needs before critical stages.

“Those at the top of the planning game will readily give you their undivided attention through anxiety attacks or if your parents want to amend the guest list for the 100th time. All this, just as the flowers arrive two hours before the reception and someone needs to take charge arranging them. You want a person who can do all this while having your back.”

So then, the complete planner will not only make your wedding ideals come true, but offer smart solutions when the party hits a wall, so to speak. Hsu goes on to describe one of her most challenging weddings.

“Once I was planning a wedding on an island owned by the couple to be. They were building a resort which would host their friends and family. They had big plans, but unfortunately their staff decided to abandon ship at the last minute. They managed to rustle up local help, but this meant the crew tending the gardens would also serve the guests their steaks. The locals had no idea what to do.”

“I got on the phone, begged until a chef friend of

mine agreed to fly in and supervise the kitchen. Then I organised my team to manage dinner service, operating and executing everything from uncorking wine bottles to cleaning tables. We were also coordinating the wedding itself, making sure



everything still ran like clockwork. My team is one of the best, and our motto is the show must go on no matter what.”

When quizzed if there ever was a wedding she didn't like, Hsu instantly replies, “The ones where the couple are busy running around arranging people and dealing with issues when they should be the guests at their own wedding.”

With rates beginning at RM 10,000 for junior planners and depending on the scope of work required, a professional at the reigns of any wedding starts to sound like a very sound investment. But all this talk of weddings begs one last question: How exactly did Hsu plan her very own special day? With relish she replies, “My husband knows me well and proposed two years in advance, giving me 24 months to plan the wedding of my dreams. I told my vendors I didn't

want anything that had been done before. So yes, I was a major bridezilla.

“My wedding took place at a private beach villa with close friends and family and we spent a few days there with numerous activities. It was meant as a mini holiday so we could spend time with everyone. Our theme was ‘The Perfect Pair’ because on the year of our wedding, it was also 20 years since we'd been a couple. My bridal party danced into the ceremony and guests were treated to champagne in a pool. Back in KL, I had a dinner for 1,000 pax and because I had to be unconventional, it was themed *Chinoiserie Cirque Du Nuit*. We had a 24-drum lion dance, a Chinese orchestra and a jazz band, cotton candy, inflatables and a mini motorbike for fun.”

For more information, get in touch with Elysium Weddings at www.elysiumweddings.net



LETICIA HSU