

# Directory

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## Love wins out second time around

Given the chance to have a second wedding, or renew vows from the first, what would you do differently? Valerie Ho had that opportunity last summer in Phuket when she walked down the aisle for the second time.

"This wedding certainly had more pomp and circumstance," says the 42-year-old, who invited 90 guests to her marriage to Andrew Cheung. "We had a band, lanterns, a DJ and more entertainment than the first time I got married. We have a bit more money now and could afford to go for it, which made things easier [to plan]."

Fourteen years earlier, Ho had a smaller wedding with her first husband. "It was much more low key. We had it in a restaurant, we didn't have a band and I wanted to keep costs down," she explains. "My parents were paying for the wedding, so I didn't want to go overboard."

For the wedding in Phuket, she says, "good wine and food was important to me, so I stuck to those two things and I let Andrew have what he wanted for the rest [of the wedding] ... It was also more of a family affair.

"My parents were there and my two sons who were 12 and eight at the time. And a lot of guests brought their kids too".

Group creative director at Marriage Maestros ([www.marriagem maestros.com](http://www.marriagem maestros.com)),



Evelyn Mills says the scale of second weddings largely depends on the personality of the couple and age. "Normally, second marriages tend to be low key and less elaborate. But it

depends, some want to do it better than the first time," she explains.

Another factor that changes the dynamics is culture. "Before they may have come from the same sort of

background, but now might be marrying someone from a different culture," Mills says.

On average, Mills says 10 to 15 per cent of her clients are marrying for the

second time. About 80 per cent of weddings are civil ceremonies instead of being held in a church.

Mills has seen many couples include children from previous marriages on the big day. "When you have children, it's important they feel part of the new union," she says.

"How the couple incorporate them depend on the kids' ages and their relationship. Some are flower girls and ring boys, or even best man or maid of honour."

When it comes to picking the dress, Mills believes "every bride should be able to wear white if they want".

Amy Wan, wedding planner at The Plan ([www.theplan.com.hk](http://www.theplan.com.hk)), has organised many second weddings at churches.

"Churches prefer to marry couples on their first marriage, but if couples are on their second, they have some counselling and then the church lets them do it," she explains.

Apart from having to provide a divorce certificate before being allowed to register for a second marriage, most other aspects of a second wedding, Wan says, are similar to a bride or groom's first.

Ho says: "It feels good [to be in this marriage] because I've learned so many lessons from my first. I feel like I've been through the university of marriage."

**Whether marrying for a second time or renewing vows, like Michael and Marcia Linley, weddings can be low key, extravagant or unusual. The Linleys are avid skiers and, after 34 years, renewed their vows at Loveland Ski Area in Colorado on Valentine's Day.**