

DIRECTORY

Enlist the help of a planner

It's no secret that wedding planning can be time-consuming and stressful, and even those with experience in event organisation can succumb to the pressure and call in outside help.

Recent bride Lydia Ho found that planning her own wedding was a double-edged sword. She wanted a tightly coordinated, perfect wedding and the freedom to relish her role as a bride rather than a planner on her big day, but putting the coordination into the hands of a wedding planner proved one of the most difficult aspects of the entire process.

"I am a perfectionist and have been project manager for various events including birthday parties, bridal and baby showers and company annual dinners. I like to organise events that run smooth and exceed people's expectations," Ho says.

"I knew I needed a team of wedding planners to help me plan and coordinate events on my wedding day. It could not be me as I would be occupied as a bride and it

Make decisions early to ensure smooth day

couldn't be my family or friends as I wanted them to enjoy my wedding day as a guest."

Ho and her partner turned to Marriage Maestros, who whittled down the overwhelming information they had gathered and helped them focus on the important details, such as the venue.

After attending several large weddings in Hong Kong, the couple wanted an intimate destination wedding with only close family and friends. "Not only did we want our guests to share our joy in celebrating our wedding, we also wanted them to relax and truly enjoy themselves during our wedding weekend," Ho says.

"We started looking for venues in Bali online and we were overwhelmed and



A good wedding planner can coordinate events perfectly on the big day.

confused. Information was too general and many of the websites were done by the vendors and lacked objectivity. Finally,

a friend recommended Marriage Maestros with experience in planning a destination wedding in Bali."

The couple settled on the Amanusa Bali resort, which provided the naturally beautiful and romantic location with an on-site team of experts tuned in to the finer details and personal touches that they wanted.

"Planning a wedding is stressful and having a wedding planner makes a huge difference. It is important to have someone who is an expert in the field to give insightful and constructive suggestions, which made our wedding planning process more efficient and productive," Ho says.

Nevertheless, hiring a wedding planner doesn't altogether eliminate the stress. "In hindsight we did get a bit rushed in two months before our wedding because we were trying to fit new things into our rundown," Ho says.

"It is important to decide what you want for your wedding early on and communicate with your wedding planner in advance so both parties can have enough preparation time."