

DIRECTORY

Vintage romance

Today's bride and groom may use modern technology and techniques to create their dream day, but many are turning to the past for vintage-style weddings.

"The vintage look is very popular because it is a romantic and cultured look," says Evelyn Mills, creative director at wedding planner Marriage Maestros. "It looks very French and anything French-related equals love in the eyes of many; and France is a popular destination for the Chinese."

According to Mills, the theme is fairly easy to achieve using a few basic elements. "A vintage-inspired wedding cake, beautifully packaged guest favours and vintage details such as lace patterns and hand-calligraphy names on invitations set the tone," she says. "Couples could also set a themed dress code to get their guests more involved."

Mills is working on a wedding inspired by Marie Antoinette. Vintage furniture and baroque-patterned

French is the look of love in the eyes of many

wallpaper will provide the backdrop. "We will use vintage flatware and Chinaware, lace linen and decorative cutlery to create ornate table settings while the menu will include colourful period-piece finger foods and hors d'oeuvres," Mills says.

When it comes to dressing the part, boutiques such as Mrs Vintage can help brides source antique or vintage gowns from the early 1900s to the 1990s from Europe and the United States.

"The trend for vintage-style gowns is growing rapidly," says Constance Wong, founder of boutique clothing outlet, Mrs Vintage. "Brides here love vintage, and want a one-of-a-kind gown for themselves.

"In the West, brides might wear their grandmother or mother's wedding gown," Wong says. "And many of those dresses were made with love. Most were handmade with many different kinds of lace including those made with needles, bobbins, tatting or crocheting. Brides are looking for fine lace and these vintage gowns are attractive."

Brides-to-be should apply the same criteria that they would to choosing a modern gown by selecting a style that flatters their body type, Wong says. High waisted-gowns can add length, while a lace neck, capelet or long sleeves can hide slim arms and collarbones.

"Most dresses from the 19th century are off-white to deep ivory, which may not suit darker skinned brides," Wong says. "They should pick white or off-white gowns, even though brides-to-be associate ivory with antique or vintage."

When it comes to the groom, a slim fit tuxedo or black suit should keep him in the sepia picture. "Add elements such

as a folding pocket square in the suit jacket, and he could incorporate a pocket watch or hat," Wong says.

"And if you want to be more playful pick a grey, navy or neutral suit. Shirts could be in other patterns such as check, polka dot or floral prints."

1900s wedding dress at Mrs Vintage
Photo: Wilson Ma

