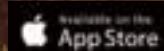


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NO. 1132

# HK

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 HK-MAGAZINE.COM



## What's Your Monkey?

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**COVER STORY**  
What's YOUR monkey?



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## CNY News Quiz

Kung hei fat choi! The Year of the Monkey is almost upon us, so we've taken the time to examine the last week of the outgoing Year of the Goat. Can you pick the truthful answer from the jumble of half-truths and outright lies?

- 1) The Democratic Party and CY Leung have been scoring a political points off each other because the CE isn't going to the party's annual Chinese New Year Dinner. CY says it's because:
  - a) He never received an invitation.
  - b) He's just not big on abalone, which is why people hate him.
  - c) He can't control his seething hate for the Democratic Party.
  - d) He's, um, washing his hair that night.
- 2) The woman who was jailed for abusing Indonesian domestic helper Erwiana Sulistyaningsih has hit back at the helper, insisting that she was framed for the crime and explaining that she had been bullied while in prison. She's likened her spell behind bars for torturing the domestic helper to "Hell," which...
  - a) Proves that karma's a bitch.
  - b) Is pretty hilarious.
  - c) Is basically the plot of kooky hit TV drama "Orange is the New Black," except for the fact that she was proved in a court of law to have physically and mentally abused another human being.
  - d) Gives Hell a bad name.
- 3) The government has skipped a vetting procedure in LegCo concerning the controversial further funding of the high-speed Guangzhou rail link. This is because...
  - a) The opposition has tied up the bill, and the government badly needs the money by the end of the month.
  - b) The government has finally snapped and told Long Hair that it's fed up with his shit and just isn't going to put up with it any more.

Happy New Year! HK Magazine is taking the week of Chinese New Year off to spend time with our families and optimize those lai see gains. We'll be back on Friday, February 19. Kung hei fat choi to all our readers!

### Who's in charge?

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# HOME



Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

## Happy Year of the Monkey! But where do Hong Kong's monkeys come from? — King Kong

Most of Hong Kong's (non-human) primates live in Kam Shan Country Park in the New Territories, on what's colloquially known as "Monkey Hill." It's home to about 2,000 macaques of a couple different varieties. But while monkeys were once indigenous to the city, the macaques of Monkey Hill have a different genesis.

See, in the 1900s, the city was running out of fresh water. And so the city's administration embarked upon the construction of the Kowloon Reservoir, the New Territories' first. It would hold 353 million gallons of fresh water—more than enough for the new city's growing population.

But just as it was nearing completion, the reservoir builders had an unwelcome surprise when they came across Strychnos plants growing around the water.

The roots, stems, leaves and fruit of Strychnos plants contain several alkaloids which are pretty bad news. One is strichnine—which as any Agatha Christie fan will know, is a potent rat poison beloved of early 20th-century poisoners the world over. It also contains curare, used by the tribes of South America to tip their poison darts. If too many Strychnos fruit fell into the reservoir, the city could wave farewell to its fresh water.

And so someone came up with a holistic solution: Release around the reservoir a group of rhesus macaques, who far from being poisoned, would actually feed on the Strychnos plants as part of their diets.

It worked: the monkeys ate the plants, and the reservoir stayed unpoisoned.

Monkey Hill's population was boosted further in the 60s by the release of several long-tailed macaques into the area, apocryphally by a troupe of Chinese acrobats who had been denied permission to travel with their animals. The two kinds of macaques interbred, producing a third hybrid species.

Whatever the story, animal numbers grew and the area became well known for its monkey population, drawing tourists with food which the monkeys soon learned to snatch from our hands. With plentiful food and not much else to do, the monkeys did what monkeys do—and soon the area's population grew unmanageable as the monkeys became increasingly aggressive in their pursuit of human amenities.

In 1999 the government stepped in and outlawed feeding of the monkeys in the Kam Shan area, also embarking on the world's first wild monkey neutering program, which brought the population down to a more manageable 2,000.

These days we may see the city's monkeys as aggressive nuisances to be neutered and released—but it's worth remembering that not so long ago, they saved our lives.



My Perfect  
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:

It's the time of the year again: Going from house to house greeting relatives during the Chinese New Year long weekend. Of course one of the best things about CNY is getting your share of lai see. Instead of splurging it all on new clothes or other goodies, why not donate part of the sum to help people in need? Share the happiness—that's what Chinese New Year is all about.

## Letters

### "Simply ignorant."

#### Tien of the Best

In our interview with lawmaker James Tien ("First Person," January 29, issue 1131), Tien said "Hong Kong used to be the leader, but now look at successful mainland companies like Alibaba and Tencent." Facebook readers took exception to this...

That is nonsense. Those companies only succeed in China due to party support. Let them try and compete on the global stage and they fail. I hope Hong Kong entrepreneurs do not get too wedded to the idea of becoming a "Chinese" company and lose sight of the bigger picture.

**Craig Bristol Dixon**

Yes, but China keeps cheating and making unfair advantages, dumping money into the market to 'prop-it-up' and devaluing the money to cheat. China is on the edge of a money meltdown because they are cheaters.

**Robert J MacFarland**

#### Fur God's Sake

Readers respond to an online story in which Regina Ip defended wearing a mink jacket, explaining that a mink in a fur farm is a "farm animal" and wearing mink is "just like eating beef."

An interesting and on point read on the subject I recommend: Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism, by Melanie Joy.

**Kristee Quinn**

Point taken. Still wrong. Sounds a lot like 'we eat beef so we should eat whales/dolphins.'

**Kris Sawatzky**

We discriminate animals based on their appearance/cuteness... must agree with her on this.

**Ken Iwaki**

Simply ignorant.

**Ka Yin**

She has a point here.

**Justin Li**

Close to retirement, it seems she's just stopped pretending to give a fuck.

**Iain Cocks**

## #PrivateEyeHK



One Direction

Photo by Alvin Cheng (Instagram: @himalbum)

Need to get something off your chest? Got an amazing photo? Write us! letters@hkmagmedia.com. Letters are printed as-is (unless they need fixing).



## Friday 2/5

### You and Me

Let's rewind to one year ago—when party organizers **Rewind** first opened for business. They're celebrating the anniversary with a kick-ass party featuring German DJ &Me. Who's DJing? You? Me? Who knows? See **Nightlife** (p.24) for more.

## Saturday 2/6

### Get the Moves

Break it down with **Flawless**, the British dance troupe famed for their hip-hop, breakdance and acrobatic moves. They're so good, they've performed with Madonna and Beyoncé—Queen B herself! Now that's flawless. **Feb 2-7, 9-14, various times, Central Harbourfront Event Space. \$385-523 from hkticketing.com.**

## Sunday 2/7

### Come Together

Sure, you want to party over the long weekend—but tonight's the night for a **family reunion dinner**. Share some sweet tong yuen dumplings—their round shape and pronunciation symbolize union and togetherness.

## Tuesday 2/9

### Boom Boom Boom

On the second day of CNY the sky lights up for the **2016 Lunar New Year Fireworks Display**. This year we've been promised fireworks shaped like smiling monkeys. Auspicious! 8pm, Victoria Harbour.

## Wednesday 2/10

### Stay In With Me

Today is the third day after New Year, traditionally a day for arguments and conflict. Stay at home and get into a fight on the internet instead. Alternatively, live it up at Sha Tin Racecourse, where the **Chinese New Year Race Meeting** will be under way. **Sha Tin Racecourse, Sha Tin.**

## Thursday 2/11

### Luck of the Dice

It sucks to be back to work, so test your new year's luck with happy hour at **Bao Bei**. Roll a die and you get 10 percent off if it lands on one; 20 percent off if it lands on two; all the way up to a 60 percent off your bill. It's all in the wrist... **5-8pm, B1/F, Carfield Commercial Building, 77 Wyndham St., Central, 2801-7779.**

## Monday 2/8

### Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Like parades? Of course you do. The **International Chinese New Year Night Parade** is back for the first day of CNY. Go grab a spot early along Canton Road if you want a good view—or watch it on TV if you don't like people.

**6pm for roving performances, 8pm for parade. Starts near the Cultural Centre and runs through Tsim Sha Tsui.**

## Friday 2/12

### Muffled Speech

It's almost V-Day, which means it's time to celebrate our favorite ladypart! Eve Ensler's legendary play **The Vagina Monologues** returns to Hong Kong for the seventh time, and it's all for a good cause: Raising money for charity **Helpers for Domestic Helpers**.

**Feb 12, 14, 7:30pm. Orange Peel, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2812-7177. \$200 from eventbrite.com, \$250 at the door including a drink.**

## Saturday 2/13

### Bright Lights, Big City

Sometimes it's nice to be a tourist in your own city: The next time you're grabbing dinner around the harbor, take a moment to check out the **Hong Kong Pulse 3D Light Show** which debuts a new CNY-themed addition this month, running from Feb 10-29. Starring traditional Chinese elements and a "spunky monkey," the new phase seems likely to drag the light show out of its rut—even if it is just temporary.

**Feb 10-29 at 8:20pm, 8:45pm, 9:15pm and 9:45pm. Open Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui.**

## More over CNY and beyond...

### Shine Bright Like a Lantern

Learn to make your own lantern to celebrate the Spring Lantern Festival (Feb 22), aka Chinese Valentine's Day, at the **Light Up Ninja Lantern Creating Workshop**.

**Feb 20, 6-8pm. Kowloon Park, 22 Austin Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. Free.**

### Jumping Jockeys

The **Longines Masters of Hong Kong 2016** brings us a packed weekend of showjumping, artistic equestrian performances, polo, jockey competitions, and masterclasses for the public.

**Feb 19-21, Asia-World Expo, Chek Lap Kok.**

Coming Up

### Arts Attack

The **Hong Kong Arts Festival** is finally here! The festival returns this year with 119 awesome performances—opera, theater, music, circus, you name it. Tickets are already running low so grab 'em quick.

**Feb 19-Mar 20, various times and locations. hk.artsfestival.org**



# NEWS

## Last Week In Reality

SAT 23

**What an Angel** At around 2am, a 41-year-old Good Samaritan rides his bike to seek out an old street sleeper who sells balloons at a market in Yuen Long. He is worried the old man may not have enough food and warm clothes to get through the cold night. The old man refuses his help as somebody else has already ordered him some food so the man accompanies him to fetch his meal from a nearby restaurant. While on their way, they come across two South Asian men sitting and drinking. One of them pushes him off his bike and he injures his knee. He suggests that he was attacked because they thought he was bothering the old man.

SUN 24

**Shotgun Sharing** At 6:30pm, a 36-year-old security guard escorts a cash delivery to a KFC branch in a shopping mall in Tsuen Wan. He leaves his loaded Remington shotgun inside the manager's room, and does not realize his mistake until clocking off work at 11pm. After a frantic search the company informs the police, who recover the firearm from the branch in the early hours. The guard is suspended.



MON 25

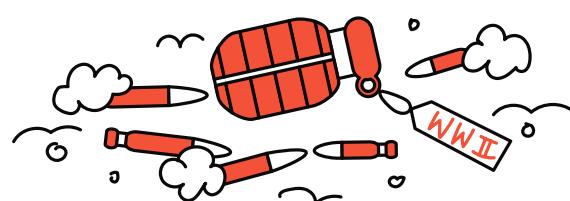
**Tiger Mom** A 38-year-old mother pleads guilty in court to assault causing bodily harm. Last October, she arrived at her 10-year-old son's primary school to question his teacher, accusing her of not allowing the child to rest. The teacher tried to explain herself but the mother ignored her, slapping her on the cheek 10 times, and restraining her hands while stomping on her left foot. The school's vice-principal and another staff member tried to intervene, but failed. The vice-principal called the police, prompting the mother to hail a taxi and flee the scene.

TUE 26

**Aberdeen Ammo** Four men take a metal detector to search for World War II relics in Aberdeen. The detector goes off on a hillside, near a barbecue pit. The men start digging and find 16 bullets and what they suspect to be a grenade. They call the police, who gather the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and cordon off the site. They confirm that the grenade is a Japanese-made explosive left over from WWII, and detonate it safely at the site.

WED 27

**What???** A woman who calls herself "village chief of the Mong Kok occupied area" pleads not guilty to a case of blackmail. The prosecution alleges that the woman had picked up a phone in Mong Kok last year and before returning the phone to its owner, she asked him to give her \$3,400, or else she would throw it away. She cracks up in court when the judge criticizes the prosecution for not preparing their evidence in time: The judge says "I rarely see people so happy when they are being tried." The case is adjourned until the end of February.



THU 28

**Don't Leave Me** A video of a man yelling at his girlfriend for stopping him from going to work goes viral online. The couple is seen arguing with each other in a shopping mall. He shouts at the woman "Don't I have to pay rent? Will you be happy if I lose my job?" Every time he tries to leave, the woman grabs him and pulls him back. Most netizens support the boy, and suggest that she should let him go to work.



FRI 29

**Pepper Spray** In the morning, two men board a taxi in Shau Kei Wan heading to Tseung Kwan O. When they arrive, one of the passengers tells the driver that he's just going to pick something up, and will be back soon. He gets out, opens the driver's door and throws ground pepper into his face. The blinded driver calls for help and the two men steal his bag and flee. Police are unable to find the thieves. The stolen bag contained only a water bottle, a few expired driver's licenses and \$100 inside old lai see packets.

## Quote of the Week

"It's like this small number of students have taken drugs. You have to wonder who's poisoned them."

"King" Arthur Li, chairman of HKU's governing council, attacks students who besieged a council meeting, trapping them for hours while demanding a review of the council's structure. Li blamed Civic Party lawmakers, who rejected the accusations.

## Talking Points

We read the news, so you don't have to.

### Hong Kong World's Most Popular, Expensive City

Market intelligence firm Euromonitor has released their annual Top City Destinations list, in which they rank the world's 100 most popular cities to travel to. Asia remains the dominant region for city tourism, with over one third of the top 100 cities located in Asia. For the sixth year in a row Hong Kong reigns at the top of the list, with around 22.7 million international visitors—that's 10 million more than its nearest rival, London. Much of Hong Kong's status has to do with increasing numbers of visitors from mainland China, coupled with relaxed visa restrictions. Also for the sixth year in a row: Hong Kong has the most expensive housing market in the world.

**Our take:** So in other words, come—but don't stay...

### It is Seriously So Wet

Another new weather record for the city: The Hong Kong Observatory says that **January 2016 was the wettest month ever since records began in 1884**, with 266.9mm of rainfall recorded—the wettest January in 132 years. The previous record was in 1887, in which 214.3mm of rainfall was recorded. The Observatory explained that the **heavy rainfall was due to "upper-air disturbance" in the atmosphere, leading to rain and even thunderstorms**. It also blamed the global El Nino phenomenon, which commonly causes greater rain in winter time. **January also had the honor of having the lowest recorded temperature in 59 years**, of 3.1 degrees.

**Our take:** Hong Kong may no longer be British—but it seems like we're still only talking about the weather.



Illustration: Elaine Tang

## Street Talk

"Wai Gor," aka Henry Yau, is the "Umbrella King" of Sham Shui Po. He's the fifth-generation owner of umbrella store Sun Rise Co. (新藝城). He tells Kate Lok how he got into the business, and why he considers making umbrellas an art form.



### HK Magazine: When did Sun Rise Co. start?

**WG:** This little umbrella store was started way back in 1842 by my ancestors in Guangzhou. My dad brought it to Hong Kong around 70 years ago. I learned how to make umbrellas at a very young age. I would sit in the store and watch my father making them.

### HK: How long does it take to make an umbrella?

**WG:** It takes about three hours to make one from start to finish. I've stopped selling my own umbrellas now, as they're just too time-consuming to make. I still sell umbrellas, but I buy them from elsewhere. I also fix broken umbrellas.

### HK: Why are you so passionate about umbrellas?

**WG:** Umbrellas are beautiful things to me. Do you know why people are so fascinated with churches and cathedrals in Europe? It's because of their rounded roofs. The human eye has always found shapes that are curved without sharp angles captivating, and that's the same case with umbrellas. Each piece is a work of art.

### HK: Do you have any tips when it comes to choosing the perfect umbrella?

**WG:** Everybody has their own preference when choosing an umbrella. A lot of people nowadays would choose them according to weight—they want umbrellas to be as light as possible. I say don't go for the lightest, because they are usually made with materials that aren't that strong and can easily break. Umbrellas used to be made with steel, and that made them really heavy but extremely sturdy. Now they are mostly made with aluminum.

### HK: We hear there's a proper way to use an umbrella. Can you teach us?

**WG:** Of course. I love teaching my customers the correct way to open an umbrella. People who work in the umbrella industry hate me for it, because opening umbrellas the right way makes them live longer. So listen up: For automatic umbrellas, you must open them while they are facing upwards. If you open them sideways, all the fabric will be facing downwards and that puts great pressure on the ribs of the umbrella. For pocket umbrellas, I always tell my customers that it is "sleeping" when you are not using it, so don't open it too abruptly. You have to "wake up" the ribs of the umbrella by slowly shaking it while opening it up.

### HK: Do you have children? Do you think they will inherit your business?

**WG:** I have two daughters, but I'm pretty sure they won't be taking on my business. Young people nowadays are looking for work that is sustainable and will make money quickly. I don't think sticking with the umbrella industry will get them anywhere.

### HK: How did the umbrella revolution in 2014 affect your business?

**WG:** My umbrellas got REALLY popular. I never used to sell yellow umbrellas, since they were never a popular color, but the umbrella revolution brought hundreds of orders every day. Most were from young people, and I sold them at a very cheap price, because I knew that they were using them for a good cause.

### HK: What's with all the stuff hanging outside your shop?

**WG:** Although most people would call me an "umbrella smith," I consider myself more of an artist. I like creating random art from things that are usually considered trash, such as water bottles or broken umbrellas. I once made a fan out of the ribs of an old umbrella, and it turned out quite well. I have a very artistic sense when I fix umbrellas: I try to make the repairs as seamless as possible, as if it was brand new. I'm quite the perfectionist in that way.

### HK: Any good stories about your customers?

**WG:** There was once an elderly couple who brought in an old umbrella for me to fix. I could tell right away that it was at least a few decades old and I asked them, "Why don't you just buy a new one? Repairing it would cost even more." But the couple insisted on fixing it. They said they didn't mind how long it took, as long as I was able to fix it. Later I found out that the umbrella was the first gift the man had given his wife. I was really touched and tried my hardest to repair it well. I didn't charge them.

### HK: How do you stay positive and happy all the time?

**WG:** Life is just way too short to be anything but happy. Why hold on to grudges when there are so many things to be thankful for? I always remind my customers, or anybody who comes to talk to me, that being happy is the most important thing in life. When others are happy, I am happy too.

**Need a new brolly, or want to get one fixed? Head to Shop B1, 314 Lai Chi Kok Rd., Sham Shui Po, 9248-5748.**

## Blowing Water

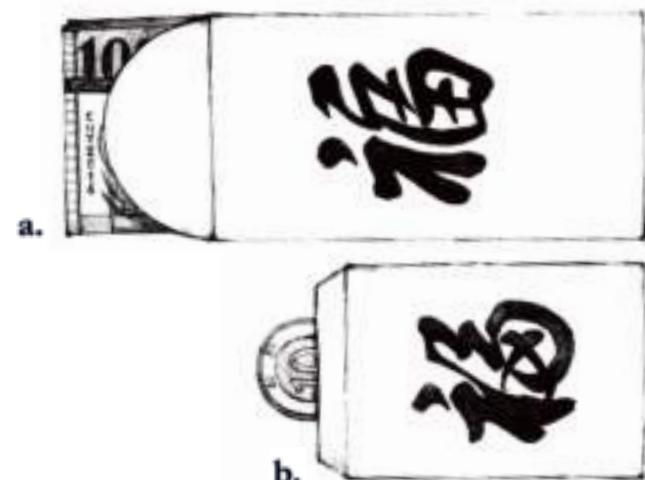
吹水 (*chui sui*), v. Cantonese slang. To chat, bullshit.

hau<sup>4</sup> kam<sup>4</sup>  
**猴擒**

"MONKEY GRAB"

"Impatient." Derived from the eager behavior of a monkey in mating season.

## HongKabulary



### Lai See Coefficient (lai si: kəʊefɪʃənt), n.

Hong Kong-specific measure of income inequality derived from how much lai see you get at Chinese New Year.

"What was your lai see haul?"

"Not much, only \$5,000."

"What! I always max out at \$1,000. The Laisee Coefficient is pretty bad in this town, rich girl."

# What monkey are you?



What does the Year of the Monkey hold for you? We ask feng shui master Lee Shing-chak for his predictions... and the mischievous Monkey King himself to interpret for us. By **Xavier Ng** and **Adam White**



## Monkey

2004 / 1992 / 1980  
1968 / 1956

### Personality:

Monkey see, monkey do. Monkeys are known to be quick learners, who enjoy adventures and trying out new things. This is your year, so—YOLO.

### Master Lee says:

Monkeys who are studying or applying for jobs will have a great year. There'll be something to do with automobiles, so you may possibly buy a car—or if you are in the motoring or transportation industry, you're in luck. However, since you are in conflict with "Tai Sui" [the "Great Duke of Jupiter"] this year, you should pay extra attention to your health. To avoid "bloody accidents," go have your teeth cleaned or give blood—that way you'll be doing good deeds and taking the blood away.

100%

You're in luck! Buy a new car and drive it to the hospital for a health checkup. Give a little blood while you're there and you're home free this year.

100%



100%

Uh-oh. Take it easy and chill out this year, bro. Maybe stay away from sad movies and extreme sports.

100%

## Rooster

2005 / 1993 / 1981  
1969 / 1957

### Personality:

The Rooster has a heroic personality. They're also good at numbers and time management—but they happen to have very sharp tongues, so you don't want to get on their bad side.

### Master Lee says:

The Rooster will have a great year in terms of romance and sex. Don't abuse your good fortune, though, as it could turn bad if you go too far. Expect someone to help you this year: You'll be able to achieve a lot by working with that certain someone. However, pay close attention to how you work with others, especially with your words as arguments might come easily. There might be problems with your joints, fingers, muscles and bones.

100%

Have lots of sex, but not too much. Find a good colleague to work with, but don't sleep with them! Oh, and drink more milk.



## Dog

2006 / 1994 / 1982  
1970 / 1958

### Personality:

The Dog is very conservative and secure, but they can come across as stubborn at times. Be more flexible and try to raise your EQ and you'll find success comes easier.

### Master Lee says:

Compared to monkeys who are always jumping around, dogs are very stable—quite the opposite, which makes this year not so great for them. Take good care of your parents and yourself as there might be health problems coming up soon. You may also be a bit depressed this year—try to keep yourself in a good mood. The seventh to ninth month of the lunar calendar [Aug 3-Oct 30] will be a low point for you. You may also have problems when working with others.



## Pig

2007 / 1995 / 1983  
1971 / 1959

### Personality:

The Pig is the most unbiased and impartial of all 12 zodiac signs, but they have problems with consistency and staying focused.

### Master Lee says:

This year there will be a woman helping you out in your life, and if you are a man then that may be more than just help! You will also have a good chance of buying a house this year [*we're not convinced—Ed*] or you might become famous or get promoted. Even so, you should not overspend as there might be financial problems waiting ahead. You are also in conflict with Tai Sui this year so you should not be facing north—it will bring you conflicts with others.



So this year you're going to meet a smoking hot chick, become a movie star and buy a villa on the Peak... before you wind up in debt the year after. That's quite the roller coaster. Oh, and buy a compass. ☺/☺



## Tiger

2010 / 1998 / 1986  
1974 / 1962

### Personality:

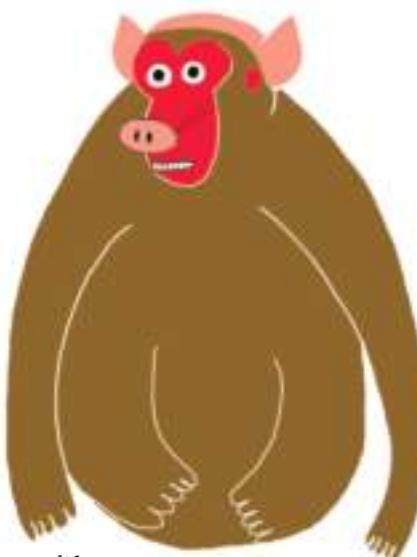
The Tiger is the loner of the zodiac animals—so not great at working with others. Instead they are very good at planning and very quick to act.

### Master Lee says:

Tigers have the biggest conflict with Monkeys—they are in direct opposition to the Monkey's people-oriented nature. Be careful with the health of your parents as well as your wallet, as this might not be a great year for your finances. However, this year presents a good chance for Tigers to resolve problems—solutions should appear easily. You will also be traveling a lot, so this is a good year for those in the tourism or transportation industry. However, try to avoid water sports.



So you shouldn't spend money but you will be travelling a lot: Guess you've got a lot of tram trips along the island to take this year. ☺/☺



## Rat

2008 / 1996 / 1984  
1972 / 1960

### Personality:

The Rat is the most detail-minded of all zodiac animals. They are also artistic and have talent in the food industry (think "Ratatouille"). But they would be happier still if they could work on their anxiety problems.

### Master Lee says:

This is a good year for the Rat—even your boss will be asking for your help and if you're taking part in a competition, there's a good chance that you'll win! If your job involves the outdoors or is action-based, you'll succeed even more. Don't overthink things, though: You might have too much on your mind this year and it may cause trouble and create conflicts between friends and colleagues.

10/10  
*Quit your current job and become a professional, competitive marathon runner. You'll win everything you enter and your coach will ask you how you did it. ☺/☺*



## Ox

2009 / 1997 / 1985,  
1973 / 1961

### Personality:

The Ox is the quietest of all, a big believer in "slow and steady wins the race." They are also very patient, but need to speak up and be more creative.

### Master Lee says:

You finally made it through the tough Year of the Sheep! This year you will thrive. You will be very successful if you are going for advanced or professional studies. If you are planning for a baby, this is the year to do it. There will be an influential woman who helps you, especially in the seventh to ninth month of the lunar calendar [Aug 3-Oct 30], and if you are a man then you might also land a lover this year. There might be some minor problems financially, and be extra careful when driving or doing sports.



10/10  
*Finally get your Masters and have that kid. It'll all be easy when Carrie Lam shows up in your life to lend some tender support. Just don't crash your car. ☺/☺*



## Rabbit

2011 / 1999 / 1987  
1975 / 1963

### Personality:

The Rabbit is easygoing and noble, and skilled at interpersonal relationships. They also are excellent listeners—but their vocal communication isn't so good and they should work on their presentation skills.

### Master Lee says:

Rabbits, you are in luck this year! You have the stars that represent the emperor, meaning that you should have the chance to start your own business or get a promotion. You will also be appreciated by someone influential. But try to avoid gambling as you probably won't have the luck for it. Also, try to avoid getting into conflicts with your boss.

10/10  
*Got a startup idea? Now's your chance to make it happen and CY Leung will pay attention. But if you're taking a chance with the funding, make sure it's with someone else's money... ☺/☺*



Laugh



Mouth



Always



Open



## Dragon

2012 / 2000  
1988 / 1976 / 1964

**Personality:**

The Dragon is a natural leader. They are creative and dare to make breakthroughs, but they are less obedient and can have problems working in teams.

**Master Lee says:**

Make some Rat friends as they are going to bring good luck to you. For those who work in the arts, design and property industries, you are in luck this year. However, people may get jealous of you and you should stop wearing yellow to avoid it. Also, beware of heavy machinery and health problems brought by your pets. Be patient and try to avoid getting drawn into fights.



Remove the high-vis jacket  
and step away from the  
digger. Nothing good can  
come of this. ☺☺

## Snake

2013 / 2001 / 1989  
1977 / 1965

**Personality:**

The Snake is cooler and more self-centered—quite a mysterious character. Snakes should try working on their social skills to improve their luck.

**Master Lee says:**

You may be facing people problems—perhaps at work or in relationships. Go get yourself a Mark Six ticket, because you may have good fortune in lotteries or lucky draws this year. On top of that, your finances should be pretty good. Pay extra attention to your health, especially your voice and respiratory system. Also be careful with your belongings.



Enter and win the lottery,  
and all of your other problems  
will be meaningless. Unless  
someone steals your winning  
ticket, that is. ☺☺



► We've made some *fai chun* for you! These traditional Chinese New Year decorations are hung up on doorways to invite in good luck and prosperity. Cut them out and stick them up for an auspicious start to the Year of the Monkey!

## Horse

2014 / 2002 / 1990

1978 / 1966

### Personality:

The Horse is the most grounded of the animals, with all four hooves on solid terra firma. However they are often not flexible enough, unlike the witty and quick monkey.

### Master Lee says:

Sorry horses: This year could be a bit tough for you. Don't act too hastily and instead wait for your opportunities to come by. Avoid dangerous or extreme sports, as well as unnecessary visits to hospitals and funerals. Beware of the safety of your home and workplace, as accidents may occur. Wear more white or lighter-colored clothes, or try to decorate your place with white to help bring you luck.

1/1

*Take it easy. Get more soft furnishings and stay at home.  
Buy white curtains.*



## Goat

2015 / 2003

1991 / 1979 / 1967

### Personality:

The Goat is the foodie in the house. They are also dreamers—but don't just think about it. You have to go after your dreams to make them come true.

### Master Lee says:

Congratulations! Goats are the most likely to get married this year and if you haven't got a partner yet, it's probably about time for you to think about it. However, take good care of your body as you might have health issues this year, and try to avoid heading to the mountains or going rock climbing.

1/1

*Time to pop the question.  
Just don't do it at the top of  
The Peak. a) It's a bit tacky  
b) It's not gonna end well.*



Big



Luck/Red



Big



Stocks/Butt



# Make like a Monkey

So you've landed a hot date for Valentine's? Here's how to get horizontal in no time.



## Get Sexy Drinks

If you just want to land your date in the sack, skip the inventive "I'm so kooky and romantic" dates or the long expensive meal and just get wasted in a nice bar.

### Nice Woods

Quiet, dark and cozy, **The Woods** has strong, inventive drinks to accelerate the small talk into small undergarments. Go all-out with the prix fixe cocktail and food pairing menu (\$588, bookings required), which combines woodland-inspired drinks and food. **Can't wait any longer?** The bathrooms are small but dark. It'll take some contorting but you can probably do the deed. L/G, 17-19 Hollywood Rd, Central, 2522-0281.

### Good Vibrations

With lights in the trees, tall drinks and the sweet scent of heady shisha all around, **Vibes** is a hidden open-air lounge that's ideal for low-voiced flirting that leads to further nocturnal activities. V-Day sees a Moët Rosé and canapé deal (\$488) plus live saxophonist and DJ.

**Can't wait any longer?** Vibes' cabanas (book in advance) are newly equipped with almost-opaque blinds that you can roll down for a little more privacy. Just try to keep it down, OK? 5/F, The Mira, 118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2315-5599.

### Fox in the Hole

Win your date over at this swanky new hidden bar. Old-school cocktails go down a treat at **Foxglove** alongside live jazz every Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday, making this venue perfect for the classier catch.

**Can't wait any longer?** Nab the private room for some "us time," although given that you need to book in advance—and drop \$50,000 on a minimum spend—you've got to be pretty certain you're going to score. 2/F, Printing House, 6 Duddell St., Central, 2116-8949.



## Get Kinky Toys

Spice it up in the bedroom with a trip to pick up some entertaining... accessories.



### Clit Fit

**Sally Coco** stocks everything you need to get kinky behind closed doors, from leather riding crops to wristband cuffs and tweezie nipple clamps (ouch!). There's also a whole range of sexy lingerie for that naughty vixen look—think thigh-high stockings, polka dot lacies and rhinestone pasties.

**Dial it up:** The Lelo Nea "personal massager" (\$849) fits perfectly against the body during sex, or into your palm during foreplay. With this little number, you'll find the race to the finish line more of a short sprint instead of an unfinished, unsatisfying marathon.

Room 302, 3/F, Winning House, 10-16 Cochrane St., Central. Order online at [sallystoy.com](http://sallystoy.com); free shipping on orders over \$300.

### Costume Love

One of the largest sex toy shops in Hong Kong, **Wanta** carries a wide range of imported sex toys, lotions and lubricants, bondage accessories, lingerie and condoms. There's also a whole section of uniforms and costumes, so you can channel your inner Japanese schoolgirl or sexy waitress.

**Dial it up:** The "Casino Bunny" set is for those who like to act innocent—but play dirty. The costume comes with a one-piece dress, cuffs and bunny ears, and costs just \$283 so you don't have to be worried about ripping it off in the throes of passion. Bonus: if you don't rip it, you can wear it again as a Halloween costume. 2/F, 28 Russell St., Causeway Bay, 2449-4128, [wanta.net](http://wanta.net).



### Sheer Pleasure

Whether you're after a sultry or sweet look, you can find it at **Sheer**. Their Valentine's Day lingerie is all cherry red, with lacy bras and slips to make your man weak at the knees.

**Dial it up:** For something a little more see-through, opt for the Allure silk babydoll slip (\$2,480) and matching boudoir bra (\$1,410) and briefs (\$1,260), in a powder pink satin.

13 Gough St., Central, 2147-3887, [sheer.com.hk](http://sheer.com.hk).

## It's Action Time

OK, you're ready to do the deed. Still living with your parents? Or does your tiny apartment look like a bomb just went off in it? Here's where to go to knock boots in solitude.

### Exotic Erotic

Kowloon Tong isn't just full of rich people and Festival Walk. It's also got some of the city's swankiest love hotels. Part of a three-hotel chain spread out across the 'Tong, the bright orange **Exotic Hotel** is perhaps the best-known and best-furnished—and the closest to the MTR. You can choose from several themed rooms, including one which features a massive fake tree in case you're in the mood for some Tarzan lovin'.

**9 Norfolk Rd, Kowloon Tong, 2338-6223.**  
\$490 for three hours, so make it last.

### Shine Bright (in Bed)

Head to the **Space Museum's Astropark** in Sai Kung for a furtive fumble under the stars. The site is set up with stargazing equipment for star-lovers of all levels, including camping facilities: So if you'd rather turn your eyes to more earthly pursuits no one's going to get in the way.

**Getting there:** From Sai Kung take green minibus 7 or 9 from Sai Kung to Pak Tam Chung, then take a taxi for about 15 minutes; private cars aren't allowed into the park without a permit. 2721-0226.



### Show Off

Total exhibitionist? Head to Yuen Long's **Mingle Farm**. This camping site has inflatable bubble igloo tents of various degrees of opacity (from \$1,300)—including one completely see-through tent if you're looking to really show off your moves.

**30 Fung Ka Wai, Tin Chi Rd., Yuen Long, 2891-8263,**  
[minglefarm.com](http://minglefarm.com).



### Forever Alone

Don't know if love is on the cards? Worried that you'll never find your one true soulmate? Or has it just been a really, really long time since you got laid? Head to **Mrs. Pound's Psychic Love**, where palm, face and card readers Lily and Diana will look into your future to determine if you're destined for a life of happy togetherness—or lonesome singledom like the rest of us.

**Feb 14, 6pm. Mrs. Pound, 6 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan, 3426-3949.**



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Tsuen Wan · 2940 6161

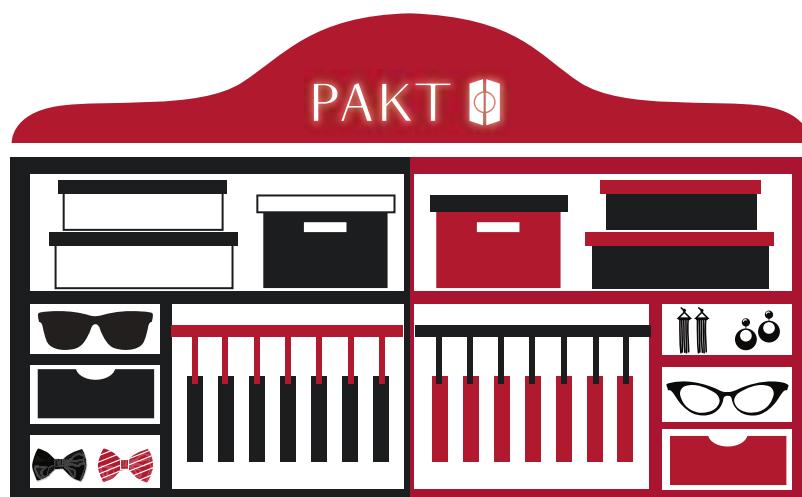
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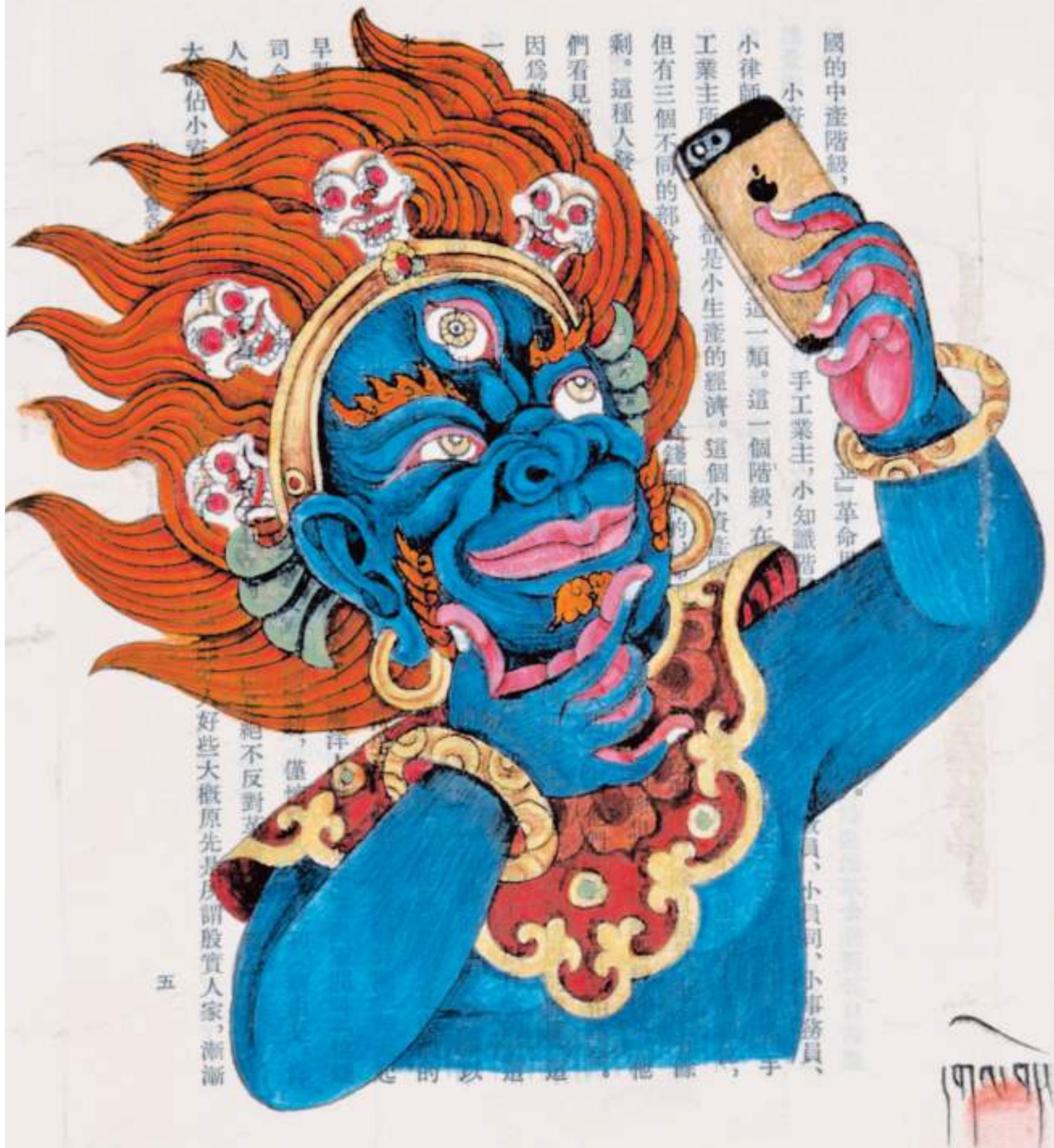
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### The Selfie Spirit

Tibetan artist Gade presents two new series, **Bodhi Leaves and the Little Red Book**. Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment under the legendary Bodhi tree, and Gade takes the tree's leaves as a backdrop for his art. Meanwhile, the pages of Mao Zedong's Little Red Book are used for Tibetan mural-inspired paintings. Ooh! Political! Through Feb 27. Rossi & Rossi Hong Kong, Unit 3C, Yally Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3575-9417.



中國社會各階級的分析

# FASHION

## LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at [normalchic.com](http://normalchic.com) | Instagram @zoe\_normalchic



**Coat Check Season**

It's been a weird winter in Hong Kong: Warm all through Christmas and suddenly we're getting a chilly end to the season. Wrap up against the wind with a snug oversized coat, like this green checkered wool number from Nasty Gal. Underneath, you're going to want something showstopping to contrast with being so covered up. Something with short sleeves and a round neckline, like this lacy dress from Sandro, is a favorite when I'm running from event to event—even when the winter's closing in.

**J.O.A. Melina Plaid Coat, \$575 (sale price) from Nasty Gal**  
**Rodney dress, \$2,060 (sale price) from Sandro**  
**Astress Sandals, \$1,900 (sale price) from Sandro**  
**Jour et Nuit clutch, \$6,985 from Kotur**

Stone Drops earrings,  
\$526 from Fossil

Lenticular Four Heart Clutch,  
\$4,088 from Christopher Kane  
@ fwrd.com

Carolyn suede pumps,  
\$6,300 from Salvatore Ferragamo  
@ Lane Crawford

**Kotur**, Sogo TST, Sheraton Hotel Shopping Centre, 20 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3911-1710.  
**Sandro**, Shop 3078A, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2234-7851, [sandro-paris.com](http://sandro-paris.com).  
**Fossil**, Shop S & X, Hong Kong Mansion, 1 Yee Wo St., Causeway Bay, 2468-2952.  
**Lane Crawford**, 3/F, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2118-2288.  
**Nastygal.com**  
**Fwrd.com**

Got a great street style shot? Tag us on Instagram @HK\_Magazine!



## ESCAPE ROUTES



Edited by Daniel Creffield  
daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com



Have a rockin' romantic time courtesy of Kata's awesome Valentine's Day package

Who said money can't buy you love? Here are a bunch of fabulous options dripping with champagne and chocolates for those with swelling hearts (and wallets).

#### Rock My World

Talk about exclusive—Phuket's boutique hotel **Kata Rocks** is offering a Valentine's Day package priced at \$30,000 all in—for just one couple. What do you get for those big bucks? It sounds pretty sweet: after your chauffeur pick-up from the airport you'll receive a couple's spa treatment before a dinner of oysters, foie gras, wagyu beef, lobster and Valentine's cake at a private table for two overlooking the coast, surrounded by candles and bouquets of fresh flowers. A bottle of Dom Pérignon 2004 will further loosen things up.

You'll share in setting off a romantic Chiang Mai lantern for luck under a fireworks display especially for you, before retreating to your Ocean Loft villa's seven-meter infinity pool, a bed of rose petals and a sensual oil-infused bath. The rest is up to you.

**The package is available for one couple only on February 14. 186/22, Kok Tanode Rd., Kata Beach, Phuket, Thailand, (+66) 76-370-777, katarocks.com/phuket-luxury-resort.**



Splash out: Kata Rocks' Ocean Loft villa doesn't come cheap but it could be the romantic trip of a lifetime

#### Love in the City

Along the same lines, but even more love-tastic: just one lucky and deep-pocketed couple will have the chance for a romantic long weekend of a lifetime at the **Mandarin Oriental**, Bangkok over Valentine's. The two-night stay, between February 13-15, is \$95,000 including service and taxes, in the legendary Oriental Suite—which has hosted royalty, heads of state, international celebrities, and this Valentine's perhaps you, you romantic fool.

The Valentine's Weekend Oriental Suite offer includes a private butler, return chauffeur-driven transfers and a daily bottle of Louis Roederer Cristal champagne. A private in-suite Valentine's dinner on February 14 comes complete with violinist and cocktails and more champagne, while fireworks over the Chao Phraya River will add some celestial glitter.

Also on offer is an afternoon tea with yet more bubbly, and a four-hour spa treatment that includes a candlelit romantic bath and four-hand massage.

**48 Oriental Avenue, Bang Rak, Bangkok, Thailand, (+66) 2-659-9000, mandarinoriental.com/bangkok.**

#### Rose Rose I Love You

If "Valentine's Day in China" has a romantic ring for you, **Rosewood Beijing** is offering some tempting-looking packages. "Love Suite Love" includes a night in a Premier Spa Suite with a personal butler and Manor Club access, Dom Pérignon champagne, chocolate-dipped strawberries and 30 red roses, a poolside foot massage and candlelit couple's massage, five-course dinner plus a romantic bath with personalized yukata robes, all for \$8,160+.

Meanwhile if you're really trying to make an impression, the "Ultra-luxe Love" package for just one lucky couple includes a night's stay night in Beijing House (the hotel's top suite), 24-7 personal butler, Manor Club access, limousine transfers with champagne and chocolate strawberries en route, caviar and



Sleep with the stars (in spirit) in the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's Oriental Suite



Private pool at Six Senses Ninh Van Bay—skinny-dipping optional

oysters, 100 roses and a Tiffany & Co. designer jewelry gift. To follow there's a 2.5-hour couple's spa treatment and in-room Valentine's dinner. Day 2 offers breakfast in bed, a private yoga session and poolside foot massage for two. The package is priced at \$58,000+ per night, per couple.

**Jing Guang Centre, Chaoyangmen Outer St., Chaoyang, Beijing, China, (+86) 10-6597-8888, rosewoodhotels.com.**

#### Dirty Weekend

A hotel booking website with an emphasis on romantic escapes, Mr and Mrs Smith have several recommendations for couples looking for a special getaway. Their top three sexiest bedrooms in Southeast Asia for a Valentine's retreat start with the **Six Senses Ninh Van Bay**, Nha Trang, Vietnam. From \$5,540+ per night, this secluded collection of teakwood villas (each with a private pool, should the urge to skinny-dip strike you), is reachable only by boat. They're also throwing in a 30-minute foot massage or body scrub for two people.

Meanwhile the **Alila Villas Soori** (from \$3,255+ a night) on the shores of southwest Bali offers minimalist villas between rice paddies and a black sand beach, also with private pools. Early check-in and late check-out (subject to availability), plus a 90-minute Balinese massage, is included.

Finally, **Cocoa Island by Como**, Maldives, has overwater traditional-boathouse-style lodges from \$8,410+ per night. While away your days scuba diving or in the Como Shambhala spa together. There's a free aromatherapy gift and daily fruit basket for all guests booking through Mr and Mrs Smith: in addition, stay five nights or more and you'll get a bottle of champagne on arrival; stay seven or more and sunset fishing is included.

**Call the Smith24 team toll-free on 800-905-326, or visit mrandmrssmith.com.**

# The POWER Hour

Hit the new year in a rut? It's time to get your targets back on track. Bust out that business-speak and scale the corporate ladder with these new power lunches. By **Leslie Yeh**



Always be closing at Porterhouse



Set those milestones with a salad at Issaya

## Billionaires of Bangkok ▲

A Bangkok import, **Issaya Siamese Club** has been making waves since landing in Hong Kong last August. With décor composed of glass lanterns, opulent multi-colored fabrics and a large alfresco terrace, the setting impresses—as does the food. Tables are well-spaced so you can hold a private conversation, while the dishes are fresh and vibrant, from chopped tuna tartare with ginger betel leaves, to Australian grass-fed beef with fresh herbs. The damage to your expense account ranges from \$178-\$288, with dessert for an extra \$48.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Head to the gorgeous terrace to leverage sky-high views, blue-sky thinking... and a world-class cocktail list.

**25/F, Soundwill Plaza II Midtown, 1 Tang Lung St., Causeway Bay, 2154-3048.**

## Bigger is Always Better ►

With its throwback 1950s-style New York-Italian atmosphere, **Carbone** is a top choice for impressing clients. If you're dining with four or more, check out their new lunch deal (\$388 per person), which encourages family-style sharing: Pick two courses each from appetizers and pastas, mains and desserts, including signatures such as chicken parmesan, lobster ravioli and the Caesar salad, prepared tableside. Hefty portions ensure that each guest leaves satisfied, while theatrics inject some excitement into the affair.

**Key Performance Indicator:** A highly scalable model means you'll still have room for dessert—one bite of the New York-style cheesecake and your lunch date will be putty in your corporate greed-mongering hands...

**9/F, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2593-2593.**

## A Lot at Steak ▲

Perched on the 7th floor of the California Tower, **Porterhouse by Laris** is your go-to for a steak-heavy macho lunch. Pick from hearty palate-openers such as cream of butternut squash with spiced pecans. Naturally, the main courses cater to carnivores: Choose from braised beef short rib with parsnip purée, char-grilled beef ribeye, or Porterhouse's signature burger on a brioche bun to satisfy your cravings. \$250 for two courses, \$273 for three.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Lock in that merger with plenty of booze. Porterhouse offers excellent wines by the bottle from \$470, and Veuve Cliquot champagne for \$750 (\$150 per glass).

**7/F, California Tower, 30-36 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2522-6366.**



Seal the deal with Carbone's classic chicken parm



Delicious deliverables at The First Floor

## New Location, New Look

A Central stalwart for more than 20 years, **Va Bene** has recently relocated to the artsy Soho 189 complex in Sai Ying Pun. No longer stuffy fine dining, Va Bene's new outlet is casual and cool, with a laidback vibe and more modern aesthetic. Dishes still deliver on innovation and technique, despite more relaxed surroundings. The set lunch lets you choose from a pizza (\$138), pasta (\$168) or meat set (\$228): Go for the pasta featuring mushroom fettuccine, ravioli or pumpkin risotto to get the most bang for your buck.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Want to keep your boss sweet, but not too sweet? Order the rosemary ice cream paired with gin-infused foam and dehydrated olives—the perfect synergy of sweet and savory.

**G/F, Soho 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun, 3568-8189.**

## Smoke Out the Competition ▲

The not-so-private private member's club that is **The First Floor by Lifestyle**

**Federation** is buzzing with the city's movers and shakers, and features an open demonstration kitchen and VIP cigar lounge. Lunch is priced at \$380 for three courses and \$430 for four, and highlights bold yet refined modernist cooking, from egg custard with duck foie gras emulsion to woodland mushroom consommé and octopus ravioli with milk foam.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Head to the First Floor's private cigar lounge post-lunch, where you can smoke Cubans while sipping on premium whisky, thus demonstrating your two basic core competencies: lung capacity and alcohol consumption.

**1/F, Baskerville House, 13 Duddell St., Central, 2840-0032.**

Vasco's lunch: as stylish as your subtly off-white business card



## The Breadwinner ►

**Vasco**'s seasonally evolving cuisine and contemporary Spanish dishes impress every time. Punctuated by copper and steel elements and lavish tableware, the décor will win over even the most jaded of clients while a concise yet sumptuous set lunch guides you in and out in under an hour. The menu (\$349 for two courses, \$389 for three) changes every fortnight but currently features Iberico pork paella, grilled red gurnard with saffron soup, and roast guinea fowl with onion and black truffle cream.

**Key Performance Indicator:** Need to butter up a potential client? Grease those palms with the sourdough bread that's accompanied by five different types of homemade butter. You'll have that signature inked in no time.

**7/F, Block B, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2156-0888.**

## NEW AND NOTED

Edited by Leslie Yeh  
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

## From Tokyo to Saigon

Can't decide if you love udon or pho more? Have a taste of both in the upcoming collaboration between chef Peter Cuong Franklin of **Viet Kitchen** (G/F, Nexus Building, 41 Connaught Rd., Central, 2806-2068) and chef Norihisa Maeda of **Shiki Zen** (29/F, Midtown Plaza II, Causeway Bay, 2970-3218), available from Mar 1-31. Five specially created dishes will fuse the best of both countries, highlighting the fresh herbs of Vietnam and the stunning seafood of Japan. Saigon-style beef udon (\$168) and Hanoi-style chicken udon (\$138) feature Shiki Zen's wonderful handmade udon noodles in classic chicken and beef pho broths, while wagyu beef carpaccio (\$168) and caramel miso black cod (\$198) have Japanese roots with a Vietnamese-style twist on seasonings—think fragrant lemongrass, kaffir limes and star anise. Dessert ties the meal together with influences from both countries: banana Nutella gyozza topped with peanuts, condensed milk and strawberries (\$68).

## Super Bowl Monday

Whether you're a Panthers or Broncos fan, the Super Bowl is always a great excuse to gorge on nachos and wings (and brunch food to fuel the 7:30am start in Hong Kong). No need to call in sick this year—Super Bowl 50 falls on CNY so you can relax, put on your jersey and game face, and head to one of these sports bars that do Super Bowl in style: **Grappa's Cellar** (Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322) fills up every year for the big game, offering a hearty American breakfast buffet for \$148. A packed house means you won't be the only lone wolf cheering, while plenty of screens allow for decent views from any seat in the house. Alternatively, head to **Stone Nullah Tavern** (49 Elgin St., Central, 2387-6338) which offers a spread of nachos, chili con carne, scrambled eggs, sausage, mini mac balls and chicken poppers for \$228 per person. Grab free-flow beers, prosecco and mimosas for \$108 extra. Let's just hope it's more of a fair fight than the last few Panthers games.

## Planking Around Town

Move over, truffles: There's a new ingredient in town that's packing an even bigger umami punch. **Isono Eatery & Bar** (6/F Block B, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2156-0688) has brought over an unusual yet surprisingly delicious ingredient: marine plankton. Despite an unsexy name, plankton has been gaining popularity around the world



## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

## VCNY ★★★★☆

Korean Fusion. B/F, 41 Staunton St., Central, 2608-1788, vcny.hk.



Housed in a bright blue shipping container, west coast-Korean fusion gastropub VCNY is probably the coolest landmark on Peel Street since opening mid-2015, but seems to be seeing quieter nights these days.

**HIT** Cocktails tried here on multiple visits were consistently great. The Chili Bitch (\$90), is an addictive rum-based drink with a touch of bird's eye chili, while The Two-Thymer (\$90), is a subtle thyme-infused twist on a vodka soda. The stone pot rice (\$168) was

a tasty bibimbap heavy on fresh mushrooms, with a large piece of bone marrow for beefy flavor.

**MISS** The VCNY Potato (\$88) takes Seoul's spiral potato street snack and serves it upright along with your choice of dips: We chose black garlic and truffle, which were both tasty, but the chips were tough and hard to break off. VCNY's (\$75 half portion) version of fried chicken was nothing special: bite-size pieces served with an average gochujang sauce. But what really ticked us off were the pork belly wraps (\$90 half portion)—six chunks of Cantonese-style roasted pork with lettuce wraps. We could have just bought a box of siu yuk and done it at home.

**BOTTOM LINE** Stick to just cocktails here until VCNY fixes its identity crisis.

**Open Tue-Wed 5pm-midnight;**  
**Thu-Sat 5pm-1am; Sun 2-10pm. \$\$\$**

## Grand Central Bar &amp; Grill ★★★★☆

Sports bar. Shop R001, Civic Square, Elements Mall, 1 Austin Rd. West, Tsim Sha Tsui, 3650-3333.



At first glance, Grand Central Bar & Grill could be any old sports pub—cheap beers and fatty bar food with a 90s hit playlist... but generous American-size portions, well-executed flavors and a stylish two-story space make this pub a dining destination in and of itself.

**HIT** A decent plate of nachos can be hard to come by in this city, but the version at Grand Central instantly curbed our cravings (\$128): stretchy, melty cheddar

cheese clinging to crispy tortilla chips, with homemade guac, pico de gallo and smoked chicken slices for extra meatiness. The buffalo wings (\$134) were likewise fantastic—deep-fried flavor bombs doused in the addictive duo of hot sauce and butter. To top off the calorific meal, we dug into a chocolate lava cake (\$82), which was baked in a cast iron skillet to contain the molten chocolate. With a giant scoop of ice cream melting through the cracks, this was a worthwhile indulgence.

**MISS** While the IPA beers were solid, the lychee martini had that sickly-sweet taste of Blue Curacao—only acceptable at frats and neon-themed bachelorette parties.

**BOTTOM LINE** Fatty bar foods at generous portions and wallet-friendly prices, in a clean and comfortable environment.

**Open Mon-Fri noon-midnight;**  
**Sat-Sun 11am-midnight. \$\$**

## Ratings

★ Don't go ★★ Disappointing ★★★ We'll be back ★★★★ We'll be back—with friends ★★★★★ You MUST go

## Price Guide

\$ Less than \$200    \$ \$ 200-\$399    \$\$\$ \$400-\$599    \$\$\$ \$600-\$799    \$\$\$\$\$ \$800 and up

## Our Policy

Reviews are based on actual visits to the establishments listed by our super-sneaky team of hungry reviewers, without the knowledge of the restaurants. Reviews are included at the discretion of the editors and are not paid for by the restaurants. Menus, opening hours and prices change and should be checked. New restaurants are not reviewed within one month of their opening. Reviews are written from a typical diner's perspective. Ratings are awarded in accordance with the type of restaurant reviewed, so the city's best wonton noodle stall could earn five stars while a fancy French restaurant could be a one-star disaster.

# CITY STROLL

## Mui Wo

A peaceful enclave on the southside of Lantau just around the coast from Discovery Bay, Mui Wo's tropical vibe, relatively modest rents and convenient ferry crossings have seen its multinational community swell over the past few years. And with some great restaurants and bars, a decent beach, temples and historical points of interest, festivals, interesting stores and numerous hiking routes, there's something for everyone. It's also the gateway to the rest of Lantau, with buses that run to Tung Chung, Cheung Sha, Tai O, the Ngong Ping 360 and the airport. Just don't try to ride the buffalo...



### 1 China Bear

Location, location, location—the China Bear has done great business over the years purely based on its prime positioning a stone's throw from the pier on Mui Wo's harborfront. And that's without taking into account the decent food, friendly staff and lively atmosphere: Even if the prices have increased recently.

G/F, Mui Wo Centre, 3 Ngan Wan Rd., Mui Wo, 2984-9720.



### 3 Friendly Bicycle Shop

Renting a bike is a fun and inexpensive (half-day hire is \$40) way to get around town. Cycle past Silvermine Beach Resort and get to the far end of the beach. Make your way inland, eventually reaching the waterfalls (you may need to carry your bike up a few steps here and there) from where you can freewheel all the way back into town.

Shop 5, Scenic Crest, 18A Mui Wo Ferry Pier Rd., Mui Wo, 2984-2278.



### 5 Red Hall Furniture

Another treasure trove—of furniture, this time. Red Hall carries a wide range of amazing Chinese antique furniture and also stocks quality reproductions, can custom-make items and offers a restoration service using traditional craftsmen's techniques.

Shop 1 & 2, G/F, Silver Pearl Mansion, 14 Mui Wo Ferry Pier Rd., Mui Wo, 2988-1368.



### 2 Wah Sing Audio Visual

Yes, you'll find everyday household electronics at Wah Sing, but nestling between them is a gearhead's treasure trove: Vintage AV equipment, a zillion gadgets and gizmos, every kind of cable, plug and adaptor, all sold—no, curated—by the affable Mr. "I make cheaper for you" Mok.

3 Ngan Wan Rd., Mui Wo, 2984-0587.



### 4 Imprint Bookshop

A bookshop that stocks expensive, antique books in Mui Wo? Somebody must be buying those ancient tomes or owner Terry Boyce wouldn't be keeping the place running, surely. Alongside the dusty old volumes you'll also find hundreds of fiction and non-fiction titles as well.

Shop E, G/F, Silver Centre Building, South Lantau Rd., Mui Wo, 2984-9371.



### 6 China Beach Club

This is a gem of a restaurant, a five-minute walk or so along the beach. With great views and a laid-back vibe, there's fabulous BBQ fish and steak, curries, huge salads and the desserts are legendary. The big breakfast comes with a Bloody Mary option for those who need an additional pick-me-up.

18 Tung Wan Tau Rd., Mui Wo, 2983-8931.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Mui Wo!



THE HONG KONG  
JOCKEY CLUB SERIES  
香港賽馬會藝粹系列

(Feb 19)

## FESTIVAL OPENING

COMPAGNIA FINZI PASCA

# LA VERITÀ (THE TRUTH)

written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca



© Viviana Cangialosi

“funny, sexy, nightmarish – and... gloriously baffling” ★★★★ Daily Review

20 Feb performance sponsored by

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What comes after

[www.hk.artsfestival.org](http://www.hk.artsfestival.org)



Programme details and artists are subject to change. Please refer to HKAF website for details and conditions of sales.

The Hong Kong Arts Festival is made possible with the funding support of  
  
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Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Almost Full!

Feb 19(Fri) -21(Sun)  
Grand Theatre, HK Cultural Centre  
\$180-\$620 Student \$90-\$260

# CULTURE

## La Verità

The Hong Kong Arts Festival is finally here! Kicking off the month-long festival is La Verità, which means "the truth" in Italian, by Compagnia Finzi Pasca. Inspired by a Salvador Dalí masterpiece, the multi-dimensional circus show features a range of performances including circus, dance, drama, music and vaudeville, making it stunningly colorful and vibrant. Feb 19-20, 7:30pm; Feb 20-21, 2:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-620 from urbtix.hk.



HK PICKS

## Classical

### Holiday & Pops: Rodgers & Hammerstein on Stage and Screen

Celebrate Chinese New Year with epics from classic Broadway musicals and Hollywood movies. International soprano star Lisa Vroman sings standards from "The Sound of Music," "The King and I," "Oklahoma!" and more, with music by the HK Phil. Don't like just watching musicians? The tunes will be accompanied by visuals on both the stage and a big screen. The hills are alive... Feb 12-13, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.

### Fatoumata Diawara and Roberto Fonseca

Cuban pianist Roberto Fonseca and Malian singer-songwriter Fatoumata Diawara traveled the Atlantic to create these Afro-Caribbean grooves... and then they hopped on a plane to Hong Kong to bring us their zesty tunes. Thanks, guys! Feb 26, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$240-580 from urbtix.hk.



## Concert

### Freespace Happening

Still haven't figured out where to take your date on Valentine's Day? Go gentle on your wallet by checking out the Freespace Happening. This time the HK Phil, Hong Kong singers and bands will be performing smooth tunes as background music for your makeout session. Still haven't got a V-Day present? Go gift shopping at the handicrafts market. Feb 14, 2pm. West Kowloon Cultural District, West Kowloon.



## Comedy

### The Vagina Monologues

What's better than celebrating V-Day with a show about our favorite lady part? Eve Ensler's classic show returns to Hong Kong this year and it's all for a good cause: All proceeds will go to the charity Helpers for Domestic Helpers. Whimsical vaginas? We're in. Feb 12, 14, 7:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2812-7177. \$200 from eventbrite.com, \$250 at the door; both include one drink.

### Russell Peters Almost Famous World Tour 2016

He's back! Canadian funnyman Russell Peters returns to... well, Macau, actually, for his Almost Famous World Tour. He'll be showing off his quickfire wit and cultural observations. Be a man! Do the right thing (and book tickets)! Feb 26, 8:15pm. Studio City Event Center, Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo. \$680-1,580 from hkticketing.com.



### The Psycho Tour

Go psy-Cho with comedian Margaret Cho's first ever show in Asia. The show is about insanity (obviously) and the crazy absurdity of the world, so expect something hysterical from the hysteria. Mar 8-9, 8pm. King George V School, 2 Tin Kwong Rd., Ho Man Tin, 2711-3029. \$380-680 from ticketflap.com.



## Opera



### The Artistry of Zhang Junqiu

This performance by the Jingju Theater Company of Beijing pays tribute to Peking opera master Zhang Junqiu, well known for her qingyi heroine roles. Feb 24-25, 27, 7:30pm; Feb 26-28, 2:30pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin. \$100-380 from urbtix.hk.



### Simon Boccanegra

Opera buffs, alert: Check out this production of Verdi's Simon Boccanegra by Teatro Regio Torino. The masterpiece about love and family is intense and thrilling, so expect all that passion in this live Hong Kong performance. Feb 26, Mar 1, 7:30pm; Feb 28, 2:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$450-480 from urbtix.hk.

## Theater

### Edinburgh Festival Allstars

You don't need to fly to the other side of the globe to see them: The Edinburgh Festival's finest are in town to show Hong Kong what they've got. This show at Udderbelly includes mindblowing magic, amazing music and jaw-dropping circus performances... and more. It's a best-of! Through Feb 14. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from hkticketing.com.

### Bianco

Get ready for some serious circus action: The UK's NoFit State Circus brings Hong Kong audiences a one-of-a-kind experience. You'll stand right in the center of the performance, as the circus showcases their jaw-dropping skills all around—and above—you. Feb 17-21. Queen Elizabeth Stadium, 18 Oi Kwan Rd., Wan Chai. \$380 from urbtix.hk.



### King and Country

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company comes to Hong Kong to perform a selection from his legendary history plays. "King Henry IV" parts I and II and "King Henry V" cover the rise of the legendary British monarch. Heavy lies the head... Mar 4-13. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$200-680 from urbtix.hk.



### The Pianist

A hilarious circus show... featuring a piano? Performed by Kiwi actor Thomas Monckton and produced by Finnish circus company Circo Aereo, it's a comedic performance with two stars: the actor and his grand piano. Mar 11-12, 8:15pm; Mar 12, 3pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-240 from urbtix.hk.

## Dance

### Flawless

Get yo' body movin' with Flawless: The British dance troupe comes to the Udderbelly to show off their hip-hop, breakdancing and acrobatic moves. Having previously danced alongside Madonna and Queen Bey, they're now here to dance with you, you lucky things. Through Feb 14. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from hkticketing.com. udderbelly.asia.



### Arirang of Mount Paektu

Sick of K-pop already? Go for K-traditional music and dance instead. Korean group Yanbian Song and Dance Troupe is putting on a show that focuses on the harmony between humans and nature, inspired by the magnificent landscapes of Yanbian on the border of China and North Korea. Mar 26, 8pm; Mar 27, 3pm. Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan. \$120-220 from urbtix.hk.

## Exhibitions



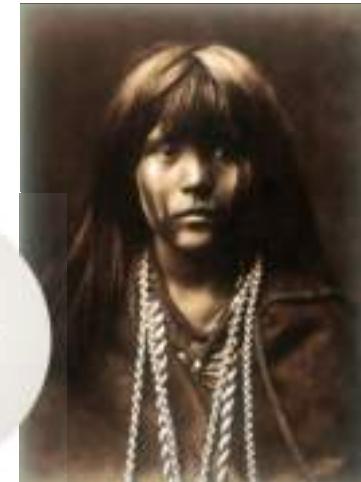
### Informal Solutions: Observations In and Around Hong Kong Back Alleys

Ever wondered what's hidden in the back alleys of Hong Kong? German photographer Michael Wolf has explored these unknown territories so we don't have to. His new book, "Informal Solutions: Observations In and Around Hong Kong Back Alleys," shows readers what's happening in Hong Kong's dynamic back alleys, places most people walk past every day but never venture into. Book available in stores citywide.



### Seeking Inner Peace: Works in Ink by Xu Jingwen and Angel Hui

Chinese artists Xu Jingwen and Angel Hui's works aim to capture a sense of spirituality. Xu depicts the spiritual side of humankind in his Plain Landscape series, immersing his audience in his large-scale creations. Hui finds new ways to celebrate tradition by combining age-old concepts with the influences of the present in the form of ready-made or disposable modern objects. Through Mar 8. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004. karinwebergallery.com.



### The Man Who Sleeps on his Breath

Check out The Empty Gallery's latest exhibition of work by internationally renowned photographer Edward S. Curtis. Handpicked from his "The North American Indian" portfolio, the mesmerizing photogravures are presented in the black-walled gallery, with an original soundscape by Italian experimental musician Valerio Tricoli as background music. Sounds pretty intense... Through Mar 5. The Empty Gallery, 19/F, Grand Marine Center, 3 Yue Fung St., Aberdeen.

## Pour your love

Show your significant other with love this Valentine's Day!

Come and soak in romance at your favorite restaurant under Wooloomooloo Group on this most charming night of the year with an exquisite dinner and tipple.



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# NIGHTLIFE

## OPEN BAR KOKO

**The buzz:** The folks at Kee Club have teamed up with ex-professional soccer player and sake lover Hidetoshi Nakata to bring us Koko, an izakaya-style restobar on the reinvigorated corner of Wyndham Street at the top of Pottinger. No, you won't need a membership just to get in—but it is no-reservations, which means you'll probably be hanging out at the spacious rooftop terrace bar for a while anyway. Just as well it has awesome views overlooking the Central Police Station. When is that place done, anyway?

**The décor:** A half-open dining room with bar and booth seating spreads out onto the leafy green terrace. Koko means "here" in Japanese and they certainly like to put the emphasis on the here and now: There's subtle detailing in everything from the cozy privacy offered by the booths inside to the twinkling tea lights and comfy sofa seating outdoors, to the delicate chrome and glass tableware which differs by drink.

**The drinks:** Hidetoshi Nakata (aka hottest Japanese footballer ever) has curated the bar's sake list—an ever-changing selection



of boutique sakes—to go with your bar bites or a full fledged meal. (Rich) sake and Nakata fans alike will want to give the special "N" sake (\$10,000/bottle) a try—it's made from the highest grade Yamadanishiki rice harvested in Kobe. Japanese whisky and sake cocktails are also big here, and a good one to start off on is the refreshing Ringo Spritzer (\$118), which pairs sweet apple sake with Nikka Black whisky, lime juice, cinnamon syrup and ginger ale. Aside from a long list of sakes and shochus, Japanese whiskies also reign supreme, and you can have your fill with a range from Nikka Black (\$90) to Yoichi 10 Years (\$180) and more.

**Why you'll be back:** Hongkongers love their rooftop bars, and the chilled out vibes on the terrace are pretty undeniable. Hop to the after-work drinks deal (\$60 drinks and special prices on bar bites from 5-8pm) and stay for dinner: the Chu-toro tuna tartare (\$168), the king crab and uni rice hotpot (\$268) and the dark chocolate green tea fondant cake (\$98) are worth several visits alone. **Evelyn Lok**

5/F, 77 Wyndham St., Central, 2109-1777, [kokohk.com](http://kokohk.com).



## Clubs

### Rewind One Year Anniversary: &Me

The Rewind party kids are turning one! To celebrate their first anniversary, they're bringing in the rather confusingly named German DJ &Me to party with some soulful house and techno. Who's playing? DJ &Me. Oh wow, you're spinning? No just the DJ &Me. That's what I said! You're Djin... etc. etc. Feb 5, 11pm. \$200-250 from [rewindandme.pelago.events](http://rewindandme.pelago.events), \$300 at the door; all include one drink.

### FKJ

Cliché Records brings French record producer and multi-instrumentalist FKJ back to Hong Kong for the second time. Want a preview? Check out his latest video, "Casoy," in which the dreadlocked musician grooves solo on no less than four instruments plus vocals. Feb 7, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. \$150 from [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com), \$200 at the door.

## Festivals



### Hong Kong Whisky Festival

Cold and rainy February's the month for whisky it seems, as the first ever Hong Kong Whisky Festival (and the second one in town) takes place at the InterContinental Grand Stanford. Dram dabblers can learn how to properly appreciate a single malt through one of the masterclasses on food and whisky pairing, attend a VIP pouring session, or sample the many varieties on offer in the main hall. A Peat Pavilion will also be on site, complete with an ice bar serving oysters, sea urchin and peaty malts. Main hall opens noon-7pm; Peat Pavilion 5-11pm. Feb 20, 12pm. InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong, 70 Moody Rd., 2721-5161. \$220 from [cityline.com](http://cityline.com), includes one glass and two starter tokens; \$420 for ticket plus entry to master class. Additional tokens \$25 each. [hkwhiskyfestival.com](http://hkwhiskyfestival.com).

## Malt Masters 2016

Find the perfect dram at this two-day whisky showcase at the Conrad, featuring selections from more than 50 distilleries. There'll also be masterclasses for you to nose deeper into whisky appreciation, as well as classes on cigar and food pairing. Feb 27-28. Conrad Hong Kong, 88 Queensway, 2521-3838. \$800 per day from [gormei.com](http://gormei.com).

## Concerts

### Mika

After cancelling his Hong Kong gig last June due to doctor's orders, the "Grace Kelly" singer is back in town to tour his latest album, "No Place in Heaven." It'll be an intimate gig at the Vine. Feb 22, 8pm. Vine Centre 2, 29 Burrows St., Wan Chai, 2573-0793. \$590 from [ticketflap.com](http://ticketflap.com).

## Gigs

### Glue

Consisting of one Hong Kong dude and two British chicks, Chochukmo's ex-bassist WaiTing is bringing his new alternative three-piece Glue all the way from the UK to the city with their brand of 80s and 90s punk, grunge and Britpop sounds. They're opened by of course Chochukmo themselves, plus MouseFX. Sweet. Feb 20, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from [ticketflap.com](http://ticketflap.com).

### The Red Stripes at Café Isara

New Lantau music venue Café Isara's about to rock out with Hong Kong's best ska and soul troupe The Red Stripes, followed by reggae and ska DJs to round off the night with a bang. Dress code is red, white and black and there's a prize for the best dressed. Feb 20, 7pm. Café Isara, Shop 3, G/F, Scenic Crest, 18A Mui Wo Ferry Pier Rd., Mui Wo, 2470-1966. \$100 in advance, reserve from [enquiries@isaragroup.com](mailto:enquiries@isaragroup.com), \$150 at the door. [theredstripeshk.com](http://theredstripeshk.com).



### Caspian: Dust & Disquiet

The instrumental post-rock giants are coming to Hong Kong once again, this time supported by local bands Smoke In Half Note and shoegazers Thud. Feb 25, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$220-260 from [ticketflap.com](http://ticketflap.com), \$300 at the door.



### Push x Volar present Year of the Monkey

Party on with the Push's resident DJs Frankie Lam, AKW and Lukas at Volar this CNY. Ladies get free entry and free drinks. Men get the privilege of paying for stuff. Feb 9, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central. Call 2810-1510 for more info. \$250 at the door before 12:30am, \$300 thereafter; both include two drinks.

### Tikitiki Bowling Bar CNY Party

Is ten-pin bowling an auspicious CNY activity? Regardless, couples heading to Tikitiki Bowling Bar dressed in Chinese garb (can you even bowl in a cheongsam?) will receive eight Lucky Dragon shooters to share. Wobbly strikes all round! Feb 8-10. Tikitiki Bowling Bar, 4/F, Centro, 1A Chui Tong Rd., Sai Kung, 2657 8488. Free.

### Red Party at Cé La Vi

Shake off the early V-Day feast at Cé La Vi's post-dinner Red Party, where west coast DJ Latin Prince—who's most recently worked with the likes of Drake, Nicki Minaj and Enrique Iglesias—will mix up bling beats.

Feb 12, 10pm. Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300. \$200 from [ticketflap.com](http://ticketflap.com), includes one drink. Dress code: Red Chic.



### Sundaze at Duddell's

Head to Duddell's every Sunday for some last-minute weekend house, broken beat and rare grooves. Free-flow drinks available from 4-7pm for \$280 per head. Hope you don't work Mondays. Sun, 3-7pm. Duddell's, 3-4/F, Shanghai Tang Mansion, Duddell St., Central, 2525-9191. \$280.



## Valentine's Day



### All the Single Ladies at Bao Bei

Find your next bae at Bao Bei's V-day traffic light party: singles wear green, boring couples wear red, and "it's complicated" in orange. First 100 girls get free entry and one free drink. Feb 13, 10pm. Bao Bei, B1/F, Cardfield Commercial Building, 77 Wyndham St., Central, 2801-7779. \$100 entry for gents.

### "If the Shoe Fits" Valentine's Eve Party

All the single ladies (and gents) can let Ozone play cupid at this V-Day event, which presumably strings couples together in some form of podiatric matchmaking. Um... hope you like showing your feet to strangers...? Feb 13, 10pm. Ozone, 118/F, The Ritz-Carlton, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2270. \$200 for gents, free for ladies; Tickets include a glass of Veuve Clicquot Champagne.



### Aphrodisiac Cocktails

Sixty sister bars The Woods and The Walrus (64 Staunton St., Central, 9862-8031) are bringing in an aphrodisiac cocktail menu for the whole of February with four drinks all served with a freshly shucked oyster. The selection includes a "Dirry Martini," heirloom tomato Bloody Mary Shooters, a white chocolate and caviar cocktail and a peaty whisky oyster luge. Visit The Woods and order any oyster cocktail and get a free Naked Oyster at The Walrus. Through Feb 29. The Woods, LG/F, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281.

### Tame Impala

It's getting expensive to be a hipster this spring in Hong Kong. The Aussie psychedelic rock band makes its way to the SAR following on from its current Europe and South American tour. Tickets are sure to sell out quick so get on them—every part of us says go ahead. Apr 19, 7:30pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$590 from ticketflap.com.

HK PICKS

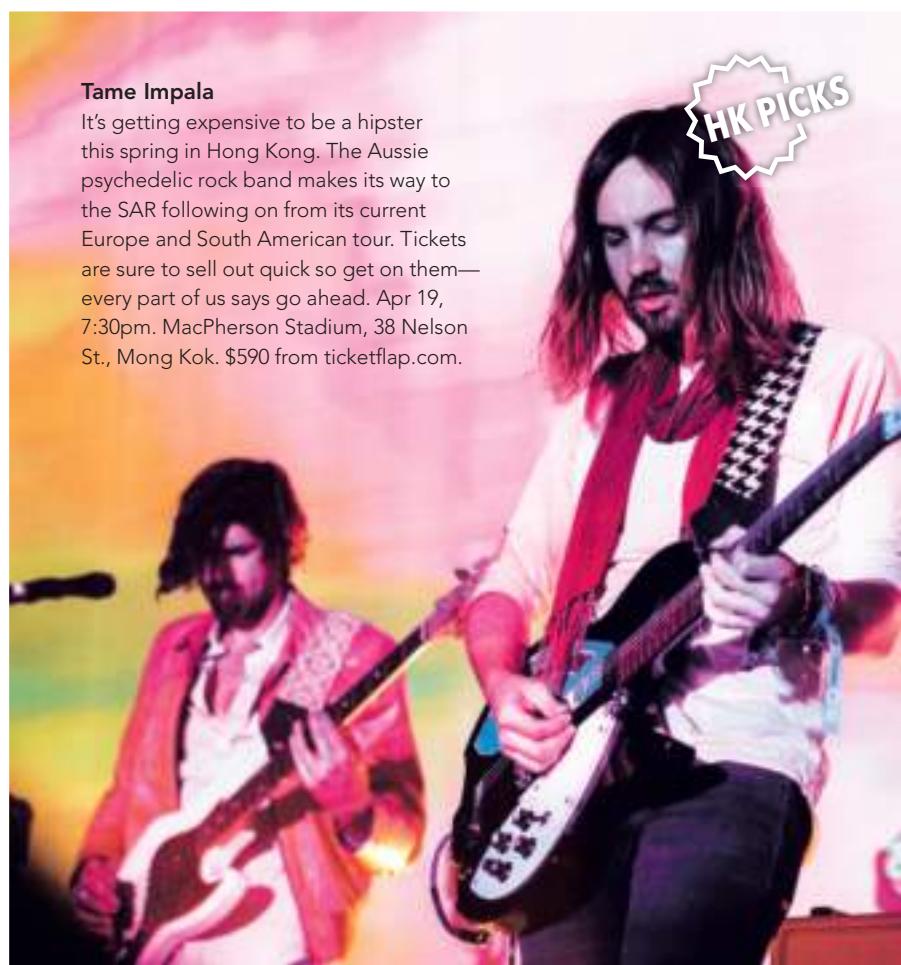


Photo: Abby Gillard/Wiki

# HAVE A RUM-MANTIC JOURNEY

Valentine's Day needs not to be pretentious with candlelight. Enjoy a rum-mantic evening this year in a fun-loving atmosphere! Cheers with a minty, sweet rum mojito as you indulge in delicious comfort food at The Chop House.

4-course set dinner with mojito HK\$488 + 10% s.c. per guest



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## 6 Classic Hong Kong Romantic Movies for Valentine's Day

Whether you're planning to cuddle up with bae or cry yourself to sleep this Valentine's, here are our favorite Hong Kong rom-coms and fiery classics. By Evelyn Lok



flip-phone flirting and a failed Kowloon Tong one night stand, Miriam Yeung and Shawn Yue became perhaps the funniest and most iconic on-screen couple in recent Hong Kong cinema.

**Love in a Puff**  
Pang Ho-cheung's 2010 breakthrough rom-com not only sums up the gritty attitude of Hongkongers, but also tells a story of a budding romance and is a timely reflection of Hong Kong working culture around the time the 2007 indoor smoking ban was implemented. In between crass jokes,



and fades through lust, obsession, jealousy, insecurity and selfishness. Like "Gone Girl," maybe stick to watching this without your partner in case they get any ideas...

**Twelve Nights**  
First-time director Aubrey Lam Oi-wah paired Eason Chan and Cecilia Cheung together in 2000 for this intelligent, nuanced look at 12 different stages in a modern relationship. Spaced across 12 non-consecutive nights, the relationship between a flight attendant and a young businessman swells



leader's adopted son—played by the charming Daniel Wu. Quotable low-brow gags, slapstick and tender moments between Yeung and Wu make this a doozy for sure.

**Love Undercover**  
Like most Hong Kong movies, the sillier the storyline, the better it is. This 2002 flick is perhaps the epitome of the Hong Kong rom-com, ricocheting Miriam Yeung to comedy queen with her role as a clumsy but likeable cop who goes undercover to spy on a triad



barred by decades of whirlwind fate, and finally end up meeting again in New York. This is your movie if you want to believe in destiny.

**Comrades: Almost a Love Story**  
Its Chinese name is perhaps slightly more poetic: Named after Teresa Teng's song *Tian Mi Mi* ("Sweetness"), "Comrades" sees a northern Chinese immigrant (Leon Lai) meet the cute but superficial money-minded southerner (Maggie Cheung). The two fall for each other but are



glances, and Maggie Cheung's ridiculously stunning silhouette in a cheongsam? "If I had one more boat ticket, would you leave with me?" We would have said yes ages ago.

**In the Mood for Love**  
You can't talk Hong Kong romance without mentioning this Wong Kar-wai masterpiece starring Tony Leung Chiu-wai and Maggie Cheung as neighbors who strike up a platonic relationship. Some swoon-worthy cinematography, the quiet heartbreak of two failed marriages, innocent stolen



**Love on a Diet**  
Andy Lau and Sammi Cheung falling in love in fat suits never fails to brighten up a dull evening, and this 2001 classic will make you believe in the power of persistence, exercise, true love and tapeworms. A killer karaoke-worthy soundtrack doesn't hurt either.

## Coming Soon

### 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of the Benghazi

**(USA)** Michael Bay is back with yet more explosions! It's the (fictional) story of how six CIA security agents defended the American diplomatic compound during the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya. Starring John Krasinski and his 5,000 new muscles. Opens Feb 18.

### Carol ▾

**(USA)** In the 1950s, rich suburban housewife Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) is in the midst of a divorce. She's drawn to department store clerk Therese Belivet (Rooney Mara) and the two soon develop a clandestine relationship—risking Carol's custody battle for her daughter. With six Oscar nominations behind it (though not Best Picture), this delicate film is one to watch. Opens Feb 11.

### Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny

**(USA/China)** A sequel to the 2000 Ang Lee classic delivers yet more flying Michelle Yeoh, joined by the long-haired Donnie Yen and Harry Shum Jr. Directed by legendary choreographer Yuen Woo-ping, this flick is a Netflix Original production: So we might even get to catch all the action legally at home! Opens Feb 18.

### Deadpool

**(USA)** The ultimate tale of overcoming death for love... by becoming a metafictional superhero. Heartthrob Ryan Reynolds is Wade Wilson, hired assassin with healing powers and a chip on his shoulder. Marvel's most twisted anti-hero finally comes to the big screen, just in time for V-day. Bring your date! Opens Feb 9.



### The Hateful Eight

**(USA)** Tarantino's eighth film is bloodier than ever. In post-Civil War Wyoming, a bounty hunter named "The Hangman" (Kurt Russell) is transporting a high-value prisoner (Jennifer Jason Leigh) for trial, when he meets a fellow bounty hunter (Samuel L. Jackson) along the way. Stuck in a blizzard, they find themselves shacked up at a stagecoach pitstop alongside a group of strangers with a more poisonous intent than they let on. Opens Feb 18.

### How to Be Single

**(USA)** Ah, the token anti-Valentine's release. Singles everywhere can rejoice in validation of their solo girl tendencies as Rebel Wilson teaches us (and Dakota Johnson) how to hoe it up in New York City. Amusingly, of course. Opens Feb 18.

### The Mermaid

**(China)** Stephen Chow's at it again with another insane CGI-fueled frenzy, this time bringing the titular watery mythical creature to the screen... with plenty of flimsy one-legged fish leggings and silly jokes to get you through the CNY holidays. Opens Feb 8.

### Spotlight

**(USA)** Based on the 2001 Pulitzer-prize-winning investigation in which a team of journalists at The Boston Globe dug into the case against John Geoghan, a Roman Catholic priest who was accused of molesting over 80 children—and it was only the tip of the iceberg. Stars Mark Ruffalo and Rachel McAdams, who both got Oscar noms for their roles. Opens Feb 18.



## Opening

### Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip

**(USA)** Time for the fourth round of squeaky CGI squirrel adventures: Alvin, Simon and Theo embark on a road trip to stop their owner Dave from proposing to his new girlfriend. With plenty of squeaky Bruno Mars covers in between. Ughhhhhh. Opened Feb 4.

### From Vegas to Macau III

**(Hong Kong/China)** It's CNY, so shitty blockbuster sequels abound: Chow Yun-fat returns as "God of Gamblers" Ko Chun with an all-star cast (Andy Lau, Nick Cheung, Jacky Cheung and Carina Lau) for yet another gambling escapade to Macau: This time involving a bout of amnesia, gratuitous glamor shots of Studio City, and plenty of director Wong Jing's usual ridiculousness. Opens Feb 6.

### The Good Dinosaur

**(USA)** Disney and Pixar's latest long-awaited offering is a tale of unlikely friendship between a human and an Apatosaurus named Arlo, in a world where dinosaurs never went extinct. The trailer already has our eyes getting a little moist. Such kindness! Such adventure! Opened Feb 4.

### The Monkey King 2

**(Hong Kong)** Following up from 2014's rehash of the well-known legend, Aaron Kwok plays Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, after previously playing baddie the Bull Demon King. With Sammo Hung as action director, you can still expect plenty of 3D-tastic flying kicks. Year of the Monkey upgrade! Opened Feb 4.

## Continuing



### An

**(Japan)** A delicate ode to nature and food, "An" is named after the sweet red bean filling of a dorayaki pancake sandwich. Sentaro recruits the eccentric 76-year-old Tokue to help out at his stall, where sales soon begin to skyrocket thanks to Tokue's careful cooking.



### The Big Short

**(USA)** Referred by some to be this year's "The Wolf of Wall Street" (without the drugs and sex), "The Big Short" is a fun-filled and eye-opening retelling of what really went down in the 2008 financial crisis, following the story of four finance bros (Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell, Christian Bale, Brad Pitt) who predicted the market crash long before it happened, with plenty of ludicrous celebrity cameos in between. ★★★

### Concussion

**(USA)** Will Smith is Dr. Bennet Omalu, the man who discovered the sports-related brain trauma disease CTE, which leads to brain deterioration similar to Alzheimer's. "Concussion" is the dramatic retelling of his crusade to alert all quarterbacks... Convincing acting from Smith, but the story development is too slow and weak to score a touch-down. ★★



### Dirty Grandpa

**(USA)** Zac Efron, an uptight lawyer (in what world would that work?), is about to marry his boss's daughter, but he's taken on a whirlwind road trip through Florida with his sleazy grandfather (Robert De Niro). Probably exactly what you'd expect from a movie titled "Dirty Grandpa."



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### House of Wolves

(Hong Kong) This CNY comedy's written by frequent Stephen Chow collaborator Vincent Kok, so expect heaps of mo lei tau nonsense: It stars Francis Ng Chun-yu as a con-man who's pretending to be an ALS patient, and Ronald Cheng as a village leader. Both fall in love with a girl who's new to the village.



### Our Brand is Crisis

(USA) Sandra Bullock is "Calamity" Jane, a retired campaign strategist pulled back onto the scene to help bring up the votes for a dark horse presidential candidate in Bolivia. Hard-sells cynicism in the world of politics but ends on a sweet Hollywood ending: a fun afternoon distraction, but nothing more. ★★★

### The Revenant

(USA) Alejandro Iñárritu's latest has Leonardo DiCaprio playing famous 18th century fur-trapper Hugh Glass, who is brutally mauled by a bear during a snowy expedition and left for dead by his men. No doubt gunning for an Oscar, DiCaprio goes to ultimate lengths through the chilling winter for revenge... Fantastic acting and cinematography make this a must-see. ★★★★

### Steve Jobs

(USA) Danny Boyle's Steve Jobs biopic chronicles the story of the father of Apple from his first launch of the Macintosh in 1984 to his departure and later return to Apple, plus his personal struggles along the way. Written by "The Newsroom" screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, it's two hours of fantastic rapid-fire dialogue and tension that'll leave you in awe—and a little bit exhausted. ★★★★

### The Last Women Standing

(China) Shu Qi is Ruxi, a 35-year-old educated boss bitch who, along with her successful girlfriends (Hao Lei and Xiong Dailin), is suddenly facing the pressure to settle down with a man. In comes the dashing 25-year-old Ma Sai (Eddie Peng), a new assistant at Ruxi's company, who presumably swoops in and saves her heart. But in what world would these ass-kicking ladies need saving?

### Les Aventures d'Anthony

(China) Zhou Xun's first film from the producer's seat is a story about a 20-something's experience of leaving his hometown of Dalian to study in Melbourne, while his soulmate Ying also leaves for Japan. Long distance always sucks!



Catch transatlantic romance "Brooklyn" at the EUFF

## Film Festivals

### EUFF 2016

Returning once again this February is the annual European Union Film Festival, bringing with it 17 award-winning movies from just as many countries. It opens with Irish drama "Brooklyn" which received three Oscar nominations including Best Picture and Best Actress for Saoirse Ronan in the role of an Irish immigrant who falls in love in New York. The festival wraps up with Academy Award-nominated Austrian thriller "Goodnight Mommy," about twin boys who grow suspicious of their mother's identity after she returns from reconstructive surgery with a bandaged face. Creepy! Feb 26-Mar 11. Screenings held at Broadway Cinematheque and Palace IFC. \$85-110 from cinema.com.hk.

### Movie Movie Countdown to the Awards

Film buffs gearing up for the Oscars can now check out 10 of the best nominated films at Palace IFC, Broadway Cinematheque and Broadway The One cinemas. Oscar heavyweights "Carol" and "Spotlight" as well as "The Danish Girl" will be popular picks for sure. Equally worth catching are the contenders for the Best Foreign Language Film category, "Son of Saul" and "Theeb"; British drama "45 Years" featuring Best Actress nominee Charlotte Rampling; Best Animated Feature hopeful "Anomalisa"; Amy Winehouse tribute documentary "Amy"; "Youth" for Best Original Score and "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" for Best Long-Winded Title. Oh, wait: best makeup and hair. Feb 17-Mar 6. Screenings held at various cinemas. \$85-110 from cinema.com.hk.

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## FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

### ROB BREZSNY

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You may sometimes be drawn to people or places or ideas long before they can give you their gifts. Although you sense their potential value, you might have to ripen before you'll be ready to receive their full bounty. Here's how author Elias Canetti expressed it: "There are books, that one has for twenty years without reading them, that one always keeps at hand, yet one carefully refrains from reading even a complete sentence. Then after twenty years, there comes a moment when suddenly, as though under a high compulsion, one cannot help taking in such a book from beginning to end, at one sitting: it is like a revelation." I foresee a comparable transition happening for you, Aquarius.



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The Leaning Tower of Pisa is eight stories high, including its belfry, and tilts sideways at a four-degree angle. When builders started construction back in 1173, they laid a weak foundation in unstable soil, and the building has never stood straight since then. And yet it is the most lucrative tourist attraction in the city of Pisa, and one of the top ten in Italy. Its flaw is the source of its fame and glory. What's the equivalent in your world, Pisces? Now is a favorable time to take new or extra advantage of something you consider imperfect or blemished.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** The Bible's Book of Exodus tells the story of the time Moses almost met God. "Show me your glory, please," the prophet says to his deity, who's hiding. "You cannot see my face," God replies, "but I will show you my back parts." That's good enough for Moses. He agrees. I hope that you, too, will be satisfied with a tantalizingly partial epiphany, Aries. I'm pretty sure that if you ask nicely, you can get a glimpse of a splendor that's as meaningful to you as God was to Moses. It may only be the "back parts," but that should still stir you and enrich you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The archaic English word "quaintrelle" refers to a woman who treats her life as a work of art. She is passionate about cultivating beauty and pleasure and wit in everything she is and does. But she's not a narcissistic socialite. She's not a snooty slave to elitist notions of style. Her aim is higher and sweeter: to be an impeccable, well-crafted fount of inspiration and blessings. I propose that we resuscitate and tinker with this term, and make it available to you. In 2016, you Tauruses of all genders will be inclined to incorporate elements of the quaintrelle, and you will also be skilled at doing so. If you have not yet dived in to this fun work, start now!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Sufi teacher (and Gemini) Idries Shah offered this teaching: "They say that when Fortune knocks, you should open the door. But why should you make Fortune knock, by keeping the door shut?" Let's make this your featured meditation, Gemini. If there is anywhere in your life where proverbial doors are shut—either in the world outside of you or the world inside of you—unlock them and open them wide. Make it easy for Fortune to reach you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Many Cancerians harbor a chronic ache of melancholy about what they're missing. The unavailable experience in question could be an adventure they wish they were having or an absent ally they long to be near or a goal they wish they had time to pursue. That's the bad news. The good news is that you can harness the chronic ache. In fact, it's your birthright as a Cancerian to do so. If you summon the willpower to pull yourself up out of the melancholy, you can turn its mild poison into a fuel that drives you to get at least some of what you've been missing. Now is a favorable time to do just that.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** How will the next chapter of your story unfold? I suspect there are two possible scenarios. In one version, the abundance of choices overwhelms you. You get bogged down in an exciting but debilitating muddle, and become frazzled, frenetic, and overwrought. In the other possible scenario, you navigate your way through the lavish freedom with finesse. Your intuition reveals exactly how to make good use of the fertile contradictions. You're crafty, adaptable, and effective. So which way will you go? How will the tale unfold? I think it's completely

up to you. Blind fate will have little to do with it. For best results, all you have to do is stay in close touch with the shining vision of what you really want.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "To hell with my suffering," wrote Arthur Rimbaud in his poem "May Banners." I suggest you make that your mantra for now. Anytime you feel a sour thought impinging on your perceptions, say, "To hell with my suffering." And then immediately follow it up with an expostulation from another Rimbaud poem, "It's all too beautiful." Be ruthless about this, Virgo. If you sense an imminent outbreak of pettiness, or if a critical voice in your head blurs out a curse, or if a pesky ghost nags you, simply say, "To hell with my suffering," and then, "It's all too beautiful." In this way, you can take advantage of the fact that you now have more power over your emotional pain than usual.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** "I like people who unbalance me," says Irish writer Colum McCann. Normally I wouldn't dream of encouraging you to make the same declaration, Libra. My instinct is to help you do everything necessary to maintain harmony. But now is one of those rare times when you can thrive on what happens when you become a bit tilted or uneven or irregular. That's because the influences that unbalance you will be the same influences that tickle your fancy and charge your batteries and ring your bell and sizzle your bacon.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** The African Association was a 19th-century British group dedicated to exploring West Africa. Its members hoped to remedy Europeans' ignorance about the area's geography. In one of the Association's most ambitious projects, it commissioned an adventurer named Henry Nicholls to discover the origin and to chart the course of the legendary Niger River. Nicholls and his crew set out by ship in their quest, traveling north up a river that emptied into the Gulf of Guinea. They didn't realize, and never figured out, that they were already on the Niger River. I'm wondering if there's a comparable situation going on in your life, Scorpio. You may be looking for something that you have already found.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Richard P. Feynman was a brilliant physicist who won a Nobel Prize in 1965 for his pioneering work in quantum electrodynamics. He also played the bongo drums and was a competent artist. But excessive pride was not a problem for him. "I'm smart enough to know that I'm dumb," he testified. "The first principle is that you must not fool yourself—and you are the easiest person to fool." I suggest you adopt him as your role model for the next two weeks, Sagittarius. All of us need periodic reminders that we've got a lot to learn, and this is your time. Be extra vigilant in protecting yourself from your own misinformation and misdirection.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Food connoisseur Anthony Bourdain has a TV show that enables him to travel the globe indulging in his love of exotic cuisine. He takes his sensual delights seriously. In Charleston, South Carolina, he was ecstatic to experience the flavorful bliss of soft-shell crab with lemon pasta and shaved bottarga. "Frankly," he told his dining companion, "I'd slit my best friend's throat for this." Bourdain was exaggerating for comic effect, but I'm concerned you may actually feel that strongly about the gratifications that are almost within your grasp. I have no problem with you getting super-intense in pursuit of your enjoyment. But please stop short of taking extreme measures. You know why.

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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

A large crowd braved a snowstorm to come out to Savage Love Live at Boston's Wilbur Theatre last week. Questions were submitted on index cards, which allowed questioners to remain anonymous and forced them to be succinct. I got to as many of them as I could over two long, raucous, boozy hours. Here are some of the questions I didn't have time for in Boston...

### What do you think of poop play?

I think of it rarely.

### How long should I keep my partner locked in male chastity?

Until Rick Santorum is president.

### What exactly causes relationships to end?

Relationships end for all sorts of different reasons—boredom, neglect, contempt, betrayal, abuse—but all relationships that don't end survive for the same reason: The people in them just keep not breaking up. Sometimes people in relationships that need to end never get around to breaking up.

**I was in an open relationship once and was heartbroken in the end because my partner broke the rules we made. My current partner wants to make our monogamous relationship open, but I am hesitant because of my previous burn. How do I get over this and become comfortable with an open relationship again?**

Rejecting non-monogamy because your last non-monogamous relationship failed makes about as much sense as rejecting monogamy because your last monogamous relationship failed. If people applied the same standard to closed relationships that they apply to open ones ("I was in one that failed so I can never enter into another one!"), most of us would've had two relationships in our lives—one open, one closed—and then either taken a vow of celibacy or pledged to stick to NSA sex for the rest of our lives.

Our choices are informed by our experience, of course, and you had a bad experience with an open relationship. Open relationships might not be for you. But it's also possible that the problem with your last relationship wasn't the openness but the partner.

### Advice for happily child-free people in a baby- and parent-worshipping world?

You could take comfort in your free time, your disposable income and your vomit-free wardrobe. You could also see baby and parent worship for what it is: a desperate attempt on the part of the busy, broke, and vomit-speckled (and the people trying to sell stuff to us) to make ourselves feel better about the consequential and irrevocable choice we made to have kids.

### Magnum condoms are just marketing, right?

Wrong—but you don't have to take my word for it. Just spend 10 minutes on Tumblr and you'll see for yourself.

**I accidentally told my dad about your podcast when teaching him how to use iTunes. I called home a couple of weeks later, and Dad told me he's been listening and Mom yells, "I'm not gonna pee on you!"** ☺

It could've been worse. Mom could've yelled: "We can't talk right now! I'm peeing on your father!"

**My husband and I (30s, M/F, two kids) found out our best friends of 20 years were secretly poly. And we didn't know! Well, we all fucked. Now our relationship/friendship is fucked, too. How do we move on from this mess?**

People who are poly say they want more love, sex, and joy in their lives—but some poly people seem want more chaos, drama, and hurt in their lives. Unless you know a couple well, or unless you've noticed the trail of destruction they've left in their wake, there's just no way to tell what they're really after until after you've slept with them. Anyway, how do you move on? You send a note, you apologize for your part in the chaos, drama, and hurt, and you express a desire to mend the friendship. Hopefully you'll hear from them.

**What is the deal with a "blumkin"? Like, honestly, why? Why? WHY? They freak me out and confuse me.**

Take it away, Urban Dictionary: "When a man is sitting on the toilet taking a shit and has his woman come in and give him head during the act of shitting."

I've been writing this dumb sex-advice column for a long time, and while I've received a few questions like yours over the years ("What's the deal with blumkins!?"'), I've never once received a question about an IRL blumkin session gone wrong. So blumkins aren't for real, and they're not really about sex. As you can see from the UD definition, it's not about sex or kink, it's about misogyny and implied violence, i.e., the man takes a shit and orders "his woman" to come in and give him head. Consensual degradation and power play can be hot, of course, but blumkins and donkey punching and dirty sanchezes—and the scared little boys who talk about them—are bullshit. Sexist bullshit.

**Like most gay men in their early 30s, I enjoy chatting and sending pics of my nether regions via dating apps. My conflict is that I am a public school teacher. While I believe I have a right to a sex life, what if someone I send a pic to disagrees? Do you think I should stop?**

We need to pick a day for everyone on Earth to intentionally release a pic of their nether regions online. It should be an annual holiday—just to get it over with and to prevent moralizing scolds from going after people whose pics go unintentionally astray. But schoolteachers have been fired for sexting. So... whether you stop or not depends on the degree of risk you're comfortable with and the faith you have in the discretion of the folks you're meeting on apps.

**Why is the term "monogamy" and not "monoamory"?**

Monogamy comes from the Greek "monos" for "single" and "gamos" for "marriage." So the term literally means "one marriage" not "one love." Since you can be monogamous without being married, and married without being monogamous, perhaps the term really should be "monoamory," meaning "one love at a time, married or not." But meaning follows usage, and an effort to get people to use monoamory would be just as futile as efforts to stop people from using polyamory because it mixes Greek ("poly") and Latin ("amory").

**We're both over 40, married 10 years. He wants a threesome, and I'm ambivalent. He says +1 girl, I say +1 boy. What do we do?**

Upgrade to a foursome with +1 opposite-sex couple.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Wilbur! I had a blast!

On the Lovecast, Dan and *The Gist*'s Mike Pesca "tackle" a football relationship question: [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [thestranger.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net](http://thestranger.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net)





## Love is in the Air at InterContinental Hong Kong

Coming up with something special on the most romantic day of the year is no easy task. And planning a special night out in romantic surroundings can be difficult. So as we count down to Valentine's Day, you'll be relieved to know that help is at hand. InterContinental Hong Kong can provide an electrifying venue to ignite romance in every couple. Everything's laid out on a plate—literally.

On Sunday, February 14, the hotel's restaurants are featuring special Valentine's menus which highlight superb cuisine, attentive yet discreet service and dramatic views over Victoria Harbour. Together they make the perfect combination on this special day. Choose from an enticing selection of romantic set dinners for two:

SPOON by Alain Ducasse features contemporary French cuisine. For the occasion Executive Chef Stéphane Gortina is creating a six-course dinner for \$5,888 for two. The special menu starts with marinated sea bream and golden caviar, moving on to steamed duck foie gras with pumpkin-chestnut and blue lobster with Monalisa potato gnocchi. Roasted veal

fillet with artichoke and black truffle precedes a tempting chocolate-raspberry dessert.

NOBU InterContinental Hong Kong offers a traditional Japanese omakase option, featuring Executive Chef Sean Mell's special eight-course Valentine's menu at \$3,988 for two.

For something a little different, THE STEAK HOUSE winebar + grill presents a hearty four-course dinner at \$4,788 for two with "For Her" and "For Him" dishes. The special menu by Chef Chan Chui-ming starts with the appropriately named "Lovers' Salad Bar."

With a spectacular panoramic harbor backdrop, the Lobby Lounge offers a romantic option for a Valentine's Day dinner. You can enjoy the delights of a three-course menu for just \$2,280 for two.

If you're after a fine Cantonese experience, the Michelin two-starred Yan Toh Heen will be open for both lunch and dinner on Valentine's Day. In the evening, the exquisite Cantonese restaurant offers an eight-course set menu, presented by Executive Chef Lau Yiu-fai, at \$3,288 for two.

Those looking for an alternative to an intimate Valentine's Dinner may prefer to visit Harbourside, where loved ones and friends can help themselves to the elaborate Seafood & Sushi Buffet Dinner, with live food stations. The price is just \$1,238 per adult.

But before the most romantic day of the year, we mark the arrival of the Year of the Monkey. InterContinental Hong Kong's restaurants offer dining options at their best, along with a waterfront location affording the ultimate front-row views of the spectacular Chinese New Year fireworks display over Victoria Harbour. For a night to remember on February 9, book now.

**2313-2323, hongkong-ic.intercontinental.com.**



## The Taste of France – in a Basket

After launching two highly successful restaurants in Hong Kong, Michelin-starred chef Philippe Orrico certainly had his work cut out for him when he decided to open a third. But Orrico thrives on challenges. He delights in making the seemingly impossible possible.

Having founded the Nomad Group in 2013, he rapidly expanded the business. The group owns and operates Upper Modern Bistro in Sheung Wan and ON Dining Kitchen & Lounge in Central. Both are popular dining spots in a city famed worldwide for its numerous great restaurants.

So when Orrico opened the group's third restaurant an eager public was waiting with bated breath to see what concept he had in store. They expected something different.

And he didn't disappoint. When Picnic on Forbes opened in December 2015 the impact was electrifying. Orrico has conjured up a masterpiece paying homage to French café culture.

Picnic on Forbes offers the perfect location to get away from it all and relax in the tranquil setting of a French picnic. The ambience at this food lovers' destination captures that authentic French feel. It serves picnic baskets, free-range chicken, traditional fruit tarts and other Gallic delicacies, the result of Orrico's desire to create a top-quality eatery offering good, simple and casual meals in a classic atmosphere.

Diners can also enjoy sumptuous cheeses by Jeremy Evrard, a carefully selected global wine menu by Nicolas Deneux and perfectly executed cocktails, including signature highballs by Giancarlo Mancino. Most of the items on the menu are available for takeaway in unique picnic baskets.

[picnic-forbes.com](http://picnic-forbes.com)



## Season of Love at Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees

Café 8 Degrees is enriching the dinner buffet with Pan-fried Foie Gras with Black Truffle Sauce and Wagyu Sashimi. Be pampered with amorous treats on Feb 13-14 such as Pink Chocolate Fountain and tempting Strawberry Cream Cake. On Feb 14, every guest will receive one complimentary Baked Lobster Thermidor with Foie Gras and more sweet surprises to extend the romance.

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## A perfect Valentine's Day at Flawless

Flawless offers blissful spa packages include "Be My Valentine" (HK\$2,400) for her and "Love from Head to Toe" (HK\$2,200) for him.

"Be My Valentine" package includes "Superfacial", a 60-minute Aromatherapy Associates experience and a full set manicure and pedicure. "Love from Head to Toe" offers a "Muscle Release Massage", "Detox Facial" and a full manicure and pedicure with cream buffing.

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## Pierside Bar & Restaurant Valentine's Weekend Delicacies

Spoil your sweetheart over the Valentine's weekend with a romantic champagne dinner at Pierside Bar & Restaurant. Enjoy our six-course dinner while overlooking the mesmerizing Hong Kong skyline. HK\$1,420 for two persons with free flow Piper Heidsieck Champagne. Enjoy 25% off with full online payment made 2 days in advance. Available on 13 and 14 February. 10% service charge applies.

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# HK GIVEAWAYS

It's time for our February giveaways, and we've got a killer suite stay at the InterContinental Hong Kong to win, as well as dining vouchers for a Michelin-starred resto. No need to thank us...

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Thanks to the InterContinental Hong Kong, we've offering one lucky reader the chance to win a dream staycation at this fantastic hotel. We've got a **one-night stay for two in a Deluxe Junior Harbourview Suite**, including access to all the luxury services of Club InterContinental—the hotel's Executive Lounge service, which includes buffet breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails as the sun goes down, plus personalized concierge services.

The lucky winner will also get to try the hotel's brand new **RED BOX Contemporary Chinese Tea Set** for two in the Lobby Lounge. Set against a spectacular panorama of the harbor, this Asian alternative to the classic Parisian afternoon tea is a three-tiered lacquered basket containing Chinese pastries, from savory treats to classic sweet bites, all served with premium Chinese teas. The value of this whole prize? A hugely generous \$13,990.

Want a chance to win? Here's how.

In this issue and the issue on February 19, you'll find an *italicized* word in the appropriate Spotlight page article. Once you've got both, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at the InterContinental Hong Kong. Go to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) to submit your entry before 10am on February 22, 2016.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on February 26.

## Win a dining voucher for ON Dining Kitchen and Lounge!

Chef Philippe Orrico doesn't seem to have been happy with not one, but two acclaimed restaurants under his belt. His Nomad Group has created fine, fresh dining destination Upper Modern Bistro and European concept ON Dining Kitchen and Lounge, and now the chef is breaking new ground with his casual café concept, Picnic on Forbes (pictured, right).

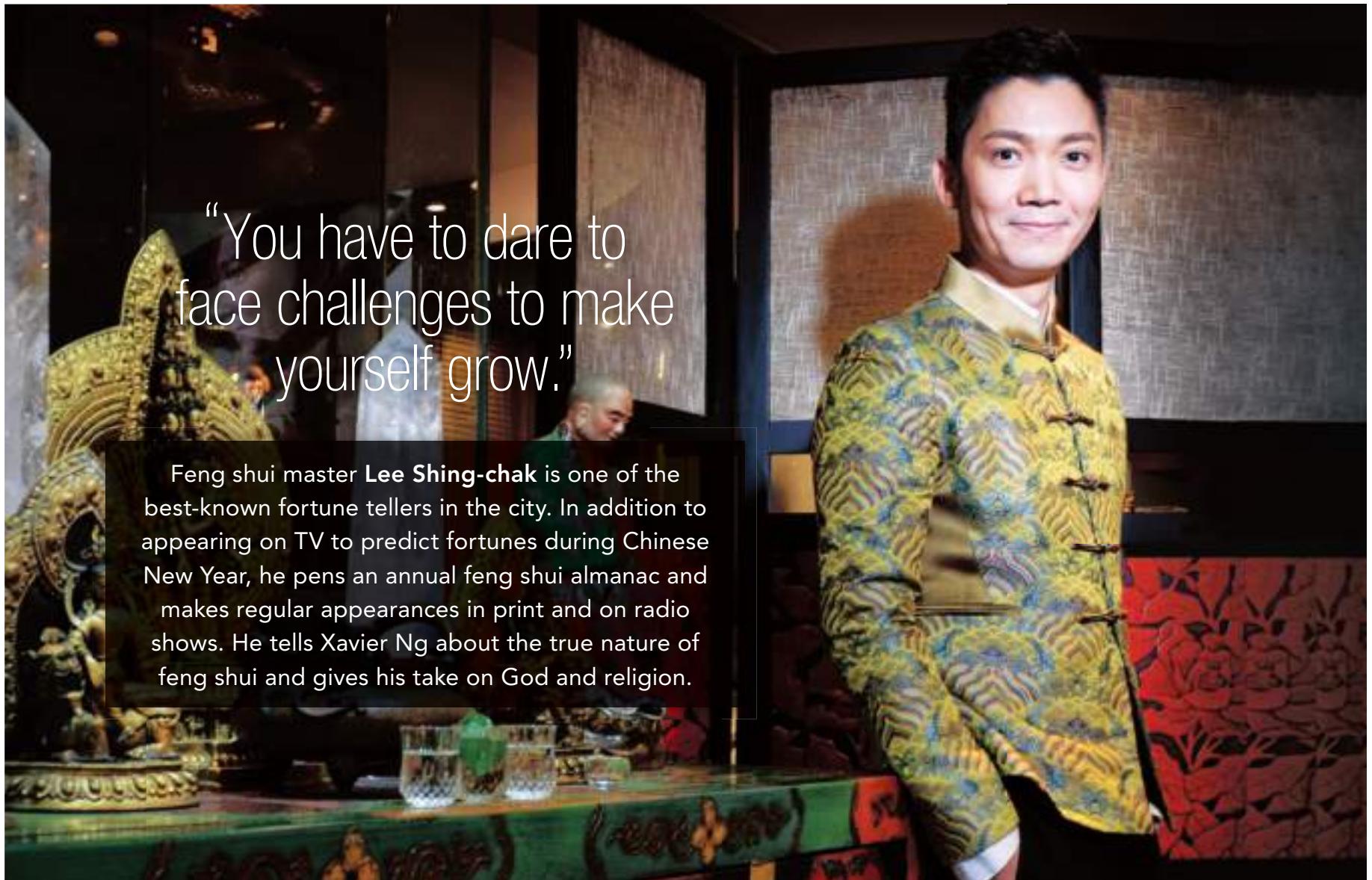
We've got **five dining vouchers worth \$1,000 each** to give away for a meal at ON Dining, which serves up one-Michelin-starred southern European and Mediterranean flavors. Want the chance to win? Just describe in one sentence your favorite Mediterranean meal. If your prose makes our mouths water, you've got a good chance of being a winner!

Go to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) to submit your entry before **10am on February 15, 2016**. Winners will be announced on February 19.

WIN DINING  
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WORTH  
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# FIRST PERSON



“You have to dare to face challenges to make yourself grow.”

Feng shui master **Lee Shing-chak** is one of the best-known fortune tellers in the city. In addition to appearing on TV to predict fortunes during Chinese New Year, he pens an annual feng shui almanac and makes regular appearances in print and on radio shows. He tells Xavier Ng about the true nature of feng shui and gives his take on God and religion.

I was born in 1968 and I've been working in the business since I was 19.

My father and grandfather are both feng shui masters, so I started learning about feng shui when I was very young.

I went to a school with a religious background and my teachers knew who my father was, so they were extra strict with me.

I was very interested in the history of religion. I even got a demerit because I raised questions about religion that the teacher thought was inappropriate.

The question that got me into trouble was: "Humans are sinful because the creator gave us freedom. So when judgement day comes, we either do it His way or we are going to burn in Hell—but He created this whole mess. Is that fair?"

Once a missionary asked me if I was worried that I'd go to Hell if I didn't believe in God.

I said: "I'm not, because I have my own thoughts and beliefs. Even if I go to Hell I will stand strong and I know there will be people like me in the same place. I can still be myself and be a good ghost in Hell."

It's very simple. Be a nice person, do good deeds, care about others.

It's not a must to have a "God" in your life. But if a religion urges people to be caring, then it's a good religion.

There are common areas between feng shui and religions and I have always studied and researched them.

I think the most important thing is to have your own anchor in your heart.

I have a face that won't grow old—it's a blessing and a curse. When I first started advertising, I had to use a silhouette of myself instead of a photo.

I wrote a lot for newspapers, so people thought I was older—but they never knew what I looked like.

Many clients thought I was too young and challenged me about my lack of experience.

That made me strive to be better. That's why I did a lot of predictions—who'd win showbiz awards, who'd be the next Miss Hong Kong, Mark Six numbers. You have to dare to face challenges to make yourself grow.

Feng shui is all about three things: the right time, the right place and the right person.

The "right time" refers to where the stars and planets are at a certain time, which will affect the big picture.

The "right place" refers to what's happening on our planet—the climate, the landscape and so on, which affects people's actions.

The "right person" refers to the day you were born—how the time matches your genes. From this, we try to maximize what you are capable of.

I believe the larger parts of our destinies are fixed, but we can tweak the minor things.

Chinese people started studying the mysteries of the universe in ancient times. They didn't have many scientific terms so they used something easily comprehensible.

They used everyday animals—the 12 zodiac signs—to represent people's personalities so even illiterate farmers could understand.

People think feng shui is not a science but they try to explain it.

But science is ever-changing and you can't say that there's no such thing just because you can't prove it yet. That's like looking at the sky from the bottom of a well.

Some say feng shui masters make a lot of money. It's not actually true.

There was a guy who came to me for apprenticeship. I asked why he wanted to study feng shui. He answered that he wanted to be rich and famous.

I told him he was in the wrong industry.

There are so many other businesses that can make more money. They can make a hundred times, a thousand times more than I do.

You need to invest a lot of time studying and doing constant research to keep yourself up to date. The effort and the income are definitely not proportional.

Money is important, but the feeling you get when you help someone is more important.

I had a client 20 years ago, before I became well known. He came to my office without an appointment, looking ill and depressed.

He told me he had gone to another feng shui master and paid \$2,000 for a session, and the master told him there was nothing he could do except lie down and die! He just wanted to make sure it was true.

He said he had just come from the hospital, that he was Pigsy and his uncle was Friar Sand [from the novel "Journey to the West."] Then I understood he had mental problems and needed treatment.

I told him that I was actually the Monkey King, and the last master he'd talked to was the White Bone Demon.

I secretly slipped \$2,000 into an envelope for him and said the demon had tricked him.

Three months later he sent me a card together with the money I had given him, thanking me for comforting him when he wasn't in his right mind.

I think one of my contributions to the industry was rejuvenating the concept of feng shui. I've done a lot of TV, radio and movies to popularize it, making it part of everyone's life.

I want to continue promoting this unique part of Chinese culture. It would be a pity to see it die.



NEED TO KNOW...

Lee Shing-chak has appeared on multiple TV shows and movies since the 2000s, including TVB's "Hong Kong Enigmata" (2011) where he met his wife, Miss Hong Kong 2009 Sandy Lau. His almanac "Lee Shing-chak 2016 Year of the Monkey Zodiac Fortune" is in bookstores citywide.



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YEAR OF  
THE MONKEY

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# Harlan's

Bar and Restaurant



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→ Menu →

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• • •

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• • •

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• • •

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• • •

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• • •

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