

# FOUR SEASONS WEDDINGS SPRING 2013







## Asia's *Bridal* Boutiques

*From traditional dresses to contemporary designs, brides can shop the best of all worlds in these 12 ateliers in China, Japan and Singapore.*

**By Renata Espinosa**

ASIA'S CULTURE-RICH PAST and its globalised future are coming together in today's Eastern capitals to create a wedding look that's thoroughly contemporary. In China and Singapore, brides still seek out the sleek, figure-hugging *qipao* (or cheongsam) in an auspicious red, as fashioned by traditional tailors who have been honing their designs for generations. Meanwhile, those with their sights set on a Western-style fairy-tale gown have their pick of international labels. Well-curated boutiques in cities known for lavish shopping offer first-class services to help a bride find her dream dress, whether she's opting for something timeless for a daytime ceremony or an avant-garde evening gown. Bringing one of the top global names in wedding wear to the region, Vera Wang's first free-standing bridal salons in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai have opened in the past year. Wang's signature graceful, modern pieces encapsulate the same youthful blend of trend and tradition that's taking the continent by storm. In addition to such Western imports, the ever-expanding landscape of homegrown luxury boutiques in Asia means that savvy brides can seek local ateliers as well as emerging couturiers to indulge cutting-edge, cosmopolitan tastes.



The Prelude



Yumi Katsura



Vivian Luk



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**Guo Pei (Beijing, Shanghai)**  
For an empress-worthy gown steeped in Chinese tradition, Guo Pei is the Beijing-based designer of choice. China's reigning couture queen combines the dressmaking techniques of China's sumptuous past with modern details like Swarovski crystals. Many of her dresses feature elaborately colourful embroideries. At Rose Studio, Guo Pei's mirrored and marbled atelier, clients can select a dress from her exclusive Chinese Bride collection, or book an appointment with the designer for a custom gown. Her intricate dresses take time, so allow at least three to six months. 2C Schengen International, No. 5 Laiguangying West Road, Beijing; 86 10/8490-7885. 22 Zhongshan Dong Er Road, Shanghai; 86 21/5352-0796; [www.rosestudio.com.cn](http://www.rosestudio.com.cn)

**Studio Regal (Beijing)**  
In Beijing's bustling Central Business District, you'll find a

collection of dresses designed by Ye Mingzi, who graduated from Central Saint Martins in London. Using vintage lace and European fabrics, Studio Regal specialises in dresses with a glamorous aesthetic (think Grecian goddess or Old Hollywood). Custom designs are also available. Beijing Yintai Centre, No. 2 Jianwai Street, Beijing; 86 10/8517-1820; [www.studioregal.com](http://www.studioregal.com)

**Yiqing Yin (Beijing, Hong Kong)**  
This young Chinese-born, Paris-based designer is making a name for herself with ethereal, exquisitely draped evening gowns. They're a striking choice for a Chinese bride seeking a *pièce de résistance* for her all-day affair. Ready-to-wear dresses are sold in China's temple of chic, the Joyce Gallery. Yin also designs made-to-measure wedding dresses—contact the atelier via her web site for details. Shop 3L103-4, China World

Mall, No. 1 Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue, Beijing; 86 10/8535-1698. G/F New World Tower, Central, Hong Kong; 852/2810-1120; [www.yiqingyin.com](http://www.yiqingyin.com)

**Ji Cheng (Shanghai)**  
Favoured by fashionistas, Ji Cheng is the go-to designer in Shanghai for a more modern take on the qipao. You'll feel like a 1930s screen siren in her elegantly appointed silk dresses, which are fit to flatter. Her couture line, The Wedding, features chic Western-style gowns as well. The newly renovated studio also offers coordinating hats, hair accessories, handbags and shoes. 102, Zone C7 Red Town, 570 West Huihai Road, Shanghai; 86 21/6282-5036; [www.lavie.com.cn](http://www.lavie.com.cn)

**Bund 22 (Shanghai)**  
It's one-stop wedding shopping at this new multistorey space just off The Bund. The historic building houses a number of bridal boutiques,

including Guo Pei's first Shanghai shop, custom dressmaker Aolisha and Malaysian brand Adore. Grooms can find a bespoke-suit tailor here, too. 22 Zhongshan Dong Er Road, Shanghai; 86 21/6320-1366; [www.bund22.com](http://www.bund22.com)

**Shanghai Tang Mansion (Hong Kong)**  
The Imperial Tailoring atelier inside Shanghai Tang's flagship in Hong Kong produces luxurious, made-to-measure qipao bridal gowns. Impeccable details include handmade flower buttons and silk knot fastenings. Brides can choose from more than 350 different types of European fabrics, including hand-embroidered silks and beaded lace. Custom qipao tailoring is also available at semi-annual trunk shows in the Singapore, New York and London stores. 1 Duddell Street, Central, Hong Kong; 852/2525-7333; [www.shanghaitang.com](http://www.shanghaitang.com)



Vera Wang



Trinity Bridal



Guo Pei



*Beijing-based Guo Pei is China's reigning couture queen. Clients can select a dress from her exclusive Chinese Bride collection or book an appointment with the designer for a custom gown.*

#### **Blush Bridal Couture (Hong Kong)**

This intimate, friendly boutique is best known for its discerning selection of wedding gowns, evening dresses and bridesmaid dresses by international designers, including Amy Kuschel, Alyne Bridal, Champagne by Junko Yoshioka, Ivy & Aster, and Tadashi Shoji. Suite 7B, Man Cheung Building, 15-17 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong; 852/2899-2739; [www.blushbridalcouture.com](http://www.blushbridalcouture.com)

#### **Vivian Luk (Hong Kong)**

Vivian Luk cut her design teeth at Vera Wang and opened her own atelier in Hong Kong in 2008. Sculptural draping and organic lines are her signatures, resulting in masterly concoctions that are as modern as they are romantic. Fittings for out-of-town clients can be scheduled to fit their travel plans.

Mezzanine 13-15 Yik Yam Street, Happy Valley, Hong Kong; 852/2891-8311; [www.vivianluk.com](http://www.vivianluk.com)

#### **Yumi Katsura**

**(Tokyo, Shanghai, Beijing)** Renowned for her lavish designs—last year, she created a gown inlaid with 13,262 Mikimoto pearls—Yumi Katsura was the first to offer Western-style bridal gowns in Japan nearly 50 years ago. Her stately, six-storey Tokyo flagship embodies Old World opulence. Don't miss her full range of equally posh bridal accoutrements. She has stores in Shanghai and Beijing, as well. 1-25-3 Minami Aoyama, Minato-Ku, 107-0062 Tokyo; 81 3/3403-7699. Room 916-917, Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai, No. 500 Weihai Road, Shanghai; 86 21/5237-3226. No. 90-92 Jinbao Street, Beijing; 86 10/8522-1876; [www.yumikatsura.com](http://www.yumikatsura.com)

#### **Vera Wang**

**(Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong)** Designed by a + i architecture, Wang's first store in Asia (Tokyo)—featuring graphite concrete floors, charcoal grey walls, etched glass doors and blackened steel—echoes the understated, architectural elegance of her collections. Locations in Shanghai and Hong Kong are now open, too. 1-5-8 Ginza, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo; 81 3/3535-2688. Room 101 & 201, No. 245 Madang Road, Shanghai; 86 21/6386-2198. 39 Staunton Street, Central, Hong Kong; 852/2869-7002; [www.verawang.com](http://www.verawang.com)

#### **The Prelude (Singapore)**

Relax, have a seat in a plush armchair, and examine gowns at your leisure in this airy, light-filled boutique. One of Singapore's first multi-brand salons, The Prelude offers gowns by Badgley Mischka, Junko Yoshioka, Temperley London, Amanda Wakeley, David Fielden and La Sposa.

21A Duxton Hill, Singapore; 65/6221-4982; [www.theprelude.com.sg](http://www.theprelude.com.sg)

#### **Trinity Bridal and Trinity Gallery**

**(Hong Kong, Singapore)** When not just any dress will do, these attentive boutiques will outfit sophisticated brides with the crème de la crème of bridal and evening wear: Think Oscar de la Renta, Reem Acra, Carolina Herrera, J. Mendel, Ines Di Santo, Monique Lhuillier, Marchesa, Lazaro Noir and Jenny Packham. Chinese brides will appreciate the wide range of red gowns; the Singapore shop often works with local cheongsam tailors who give Trinity clients a discount. 8/F W Place, 52 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong; 852/2978-3987; [www.trinitybridal.com.hk](http://www.trinitybridal.com.hk) 328 North Bridge Road, No. 02-14 Raffles Hotel Arcade, Singapore; 65/6336-5052; [www.trinitygallery.com.sg](http://www.trinitygallery.com.sg)