

Hens Heaven

Send off the bride in style with a wild, extravagant or quietly elegant party at these Hong Kong venues.

Text by Tiffany Chan and Carla Gonzalez



Hong Kong Art Tutoring hosts a number of arty hen parties, where the bride and her friends can draw male nude models.

TOP PICK

Hong Kong Art Tutoring

For an artful hen party, life drawing makes for a lively and intimate affair.

Pre-wedding celebrations are sometimes more fun than the wedding itself: typically, they involve drinking copious amounts of prosecco and margaritas and engaging in liberating activities of all sorts.

To begin the party artfully, or for those who simply prefer something more sophisticated, life drawing is a tasteful, provocative and fun alternative for large groups.

Set in the middle of North Point, Hong Kong Art Tutoring houses drawing, painting and sculpting facilities in an airy studio with a designer kitchen, private bathroom and two outdoor terraces. While the centre offers various art classes for individuals, groups and corporate parties, it also

hosts a number of private life drawing sessions perfect for hen celebrations.

In the studio, the bride and friends will create their own masterpieces inspired by a nude male art model, the nude bride, or any subject of choice. The studio provides the art model and all art supplies necessary for individual canvases. For those who don't have much experience drawing nude models, fret not, as Gail Deayton, the founder of the centre, will be present to supervise and teach.

"They love it because it's a creative thing, and also a little bit different. Many women find the idea of having a male nude model quite funny

and it's obviously something not many people have done before," Deayton says.

The party extends beyond the life drawing. With a well-equipped studio and outdoor terrace, guests can bring their own food and drinks at no extra cost, bond on the terrace and make a night of it.

"Sometimes there's music blaring, it's loud, there's drinking involved. Sometimes, it's more quiet and refined," Deayton says. "But it's always just good fun for everyone."

The studio accommodates up to groups of 25 and life drawing sessions are not available for stag parties. ■

CITY GUIDE

GRAND CINEMA

2/F Elements, 1 Austin Road West, Tsim Sha Tsui | Tel: 2196 8708



Host an old-fashioned movie night with a private screening and a reserved lounge to relax before the show begins. Choose a film – a romance, drama or action flick, perhaps – and book a first-class service showing at the Grand Cinema's Standard Chartered Suite. As well as the film, there's a choice of food packages, and we're not talking popcorn, hot dogs and soda. The suite has a selection of three different restaurant styles. Munch and Sip includes seasonal treats, snacks and high-quality comfort food. Wild Ginger is a quality Japanese deli that includes handmade noodles. And finally, for a taste of Western cuisine, Chips Republic Café offers burgers, crispy chips with sauce, milkshake and frozen yogurt with endless toppings. The package begins at \$5,500 for a group of 23 people.

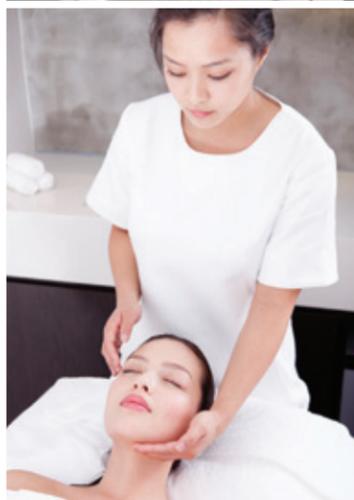
Left:
The Starsuite has 23 remote-controlled adjustable seats to enjoy the film.

FLAWLESS

4/F Sea Bird House, 22-28 Wyndham Street, Central | Tel: 2526 6918

Self-styled as an urban spa, Flawless is as chic as it gets, with its painted brick walls, hardwood floors and chocolate leather couches. It features a main manicure and pedicure area, brightly lit Hollywood-style makeup stations, treatment rooms more comfortable than your own bedroom and an outdoor terrace overlooking LKF. For brides-to-be looking to glam up with friends, they offer party packages for groups of up to 20. Select from six different packages that mix-and-match between manis and pedis, mini facials and quick-fix or evening make up sessions. All packages come with free flow bubbly, fancy fruit water and Mighty Leaf organic tea, and price ranges from \$460 to \$910 per person, depending on the number of people in your group and the package. For those who take sparties seriously, catering from hip Mexican-joint Brickhouse can be also arranged – feast on chips & salsa, tostadas and beet fries while sipping on some bubbly – it's the only way to do it.

Right:
Glam up and gossip with friends over manis and pedis, a glass of bubbly and chips & salsa.



CITY GUIDE

POLE PARADISE STUDIO

10/F CS Tower, 50-54 Wing Lok Street, Sheung Wan | Tel: 2543 0198



Let your hair down and your inhibitions go with a pole-dancing party. A fun and unconventional choice for a bachelorette party, Pole Paradise Studio offers parties in a variety of exercise-class options, including pole dance, lap dance, burlesque, aerial hoop, aerial silks and static trapeze. The classes are all guided by an experienced instructor and can be adapted to suit your friends' fitness. As well as private use of the studio for 90 minutes, you can bring snacks and drinks during the lesson and costs \$2,800 for the bride and up to nine guests, with an extra charge of \$220 for each additional person. Warning: pole dancing stretches parts other classes do not reach and may leave you feeling sore next day, so book the party at least a couple of days before the wedding.

Left:
The studio and props can be booked for a longer party.

AIRPLAY BLOW DRY BAR

7/F W Place, 52 Wyndham Street, Central | Tel: 2641 9888

Airplay Blow Dry Bar focuses on hair styling and make-up in a playful feminine environment. Relax with friends, find your favourite up-do or blow out and get ready for a night out in less than 45 minutes. Styling options are inspired by signature cocktails, including the Sea Breeze (wavy), Mojito (tropical curls), Long Island iced tea (silky straight) and Sake Bomb (shorter hair). Fans of braids can order a Singapore Sling – an exotic fishtail braid – or Sidecar for subtle side-braids. The private party package includes exclusive use of the venue, hair styling and make-up, complimentary drinks and snacks. From \$6,000 for up to 30 guests.

Right:
Leave the blow dry bar with an up-do inspired by your favourite cocktail.

