



# SHADES OF LOVE

Beginning with a formal church service then a tea ceremony and lavish banquet, the nuptials of **ELSA KURNIAWAN AND JAMES COLLIS** concluded with a fun day at the beach and sunset farewell cruise for out-of-town guests



**E**lsa Kurniawan and James Collis first met five years ago at a lunch at Marina Bay Sands organised by a mutual friend but lost touch when James, who was then residing in Australia, returned home. A few years later when he moved back to Singapore, fate got to work, bringing the pair together again. “We ran into each other at a dinner, talked, laughed and really clicked,” recalls Elsa, an entrepreneur.

A short but intense courtship for this couple who spent lots of quality time together led to the proposal. James travelled to Jakarta to seek Elsa’s parents’ permission to marry their daughter. A long chat later, he had their blessings; but Elsa did not know he had a surprise. “All of a sudden, he pulled a ring out and I was in complete shock. I don’t think I said anything. I just hugged him,” she says.



## ELSA & JAMES

Wedding Events

Church Ceremony

WHEN Apr 18, 2015

WHERE St George’s Church

Dinner Reception

WHEN Apr 18, 2015

WHERE Fullerton Bay Hotel

### The Vendors

**BRIDE’S OUTFITS** Zunhar Murad, Jade Sweet;

Four Seasons Jewelry, Dior, Elle Saab

**GROOM’S OUTFITS** Ermenegildo Zegna

Su Misura, Dolce & Gabbana

**PHOTOGRAPHY** OetomoFoto

**MAKE-UP & HAIR** Okky Diva

**FLOWERS** Fiore Dorato

**PLANNER** Lelian Chew/The Wedding Atelier

**CONCEPT & DESIGN** Agam Riedi & Fay

Soekarno/Java Chic Flower Concept

**STATIONERY** Deborah Tan/The Floral Atelier

**CAKE** Veronica Yang/Celebrate with Cake

WORDS: MELISSA GAIL SING



### THE THEME & CONCEPT

It was within the serene walls of the century-old St. George's Church that the couple exchanged vows. The different traditions of the bride and groom were merged into a ceremony that was very personal and meaningful to them. "James's family is Anglican so we used that as our base. My family has certain traditions such as the lighting of the unity candles, which symbolises a couple's union and giving thanks to our parents. This was a very touching moment for us. Guests who had not witnessed this before also thought it was a beautiful moment," shares Elsa who wore a Zuhair Murad bridal couture gown.

From one building steeped in heritage, the festivities continued at another historic location, The Fullerton Bay Hotel, where the Chinese tea ceremony was held. Later that evening, the couple hosted a banquet at The Clifford Pier overlooking the glittering river. Explaining why they chose the venue, Elsa says, "We loved the view, the architecture of the building and the hotel in general."

A team specialising in decorations was flown in specially to dress up the restaurant with beautiful fresh blooms in white, soft

pink and purple lent an air of romance. The five-course meal comprising fusion dishes ended on a symbolic note with traditional ee-fu noodles for a long life together. The sweet-toothed were then indulged with a dessert buffet.

Elsa was ravishing in another Zuhair Murad gown, this time with a low back and long train, paired with custom jewellery. James completed the elegant picture in his black Dolce & Gabbana tuxedo. After the dinner, the revelry continued upstairs at rooftop bar Lantern.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

As a number of friends from overseas were in town for their special day, the couple wanted to make the celebration an event for them, too. After the formalities of the day before, their friends were hosted to a day of beach fun at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa. With an itinerary that included a 16-bridesmaids versus five-groomsmen tug-of-war, the mood was entirely boisterous, unlike the earlier sophistication. Guests also gamely wore the custom T-shirts the couple prepared, placed in their rooms as a wedding favour.

The next day, Elsa and James bid farewell to their friends on an evening cruise aboard the *Royal Albatross*. "It was really special, the most magnificent way to end our celebration," says the bride, still reeling at the memory.

Ask her about the biggest highlight of her wedding though, and she is more reflective, "It was the love we received from all our family members and friends. Every one of them showed us great support and genuine happiness as we started this new chapter of our lives together. More than anything else, this made the celebration special!"

