



Stud Cuts

By Carolyn Chen, *The Special Day*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE PHOTO

Move over, ladies, let the man pampering begin! Hot shaves, pedicures and manicures are a great idea for a bachelor party (mixed with pizza, beer and ESPN) or a relaxation activity on the wedding day. There are several barber salons offering such services, and some also can send technicians to you at an additional charge, such as to your hotel.

The hot shave typically lasts for about 45 minutes and usually includes hot towel application, hot lather, straight edge shave and massaging of the face, neck and shoulders. He will be fresh and relaxed to say his vows!

Stud Cuts, San Clemente 949.366.2456
The Shave of Beverly Hills 310.888.2898

The Chinese Tea Ceremony

A How-To Guide

By Carolyn Chen, The Special Day Event Design & Coordination
Photographs by Christopher Jae



The tea ceremony has been a tradition in Chinese weddings as a way to pay respect to parents and family. Embrace this cultural tradition and incorporate the tea ceremony into your special day.

Tea Preparation: Make plans ahead of time to ensure availability of items needed to prepare the tea: hot water, tea bags or tea leaves, cups, serving tray and a tea pot. If available, use lotus seeds and two red dates. The ancient Chinese believed that putting them into the tea would encourage fertility and they would have children early in their marriage.

Seating and Kneeling: Parents and elders are invited to the tea ceremony, and all those that are to be served tea sit in chairs while the bride and groom kneel on the floor (place cushions on the floor for comfort). As a general rule, the women are to the left and the men are to the right. For example, when the bride and



groom serve tea to the parents, the bride will kneel in front of the father while the groom would kneel in front of the mother.

Offering of Tea: Hold the teacup in both hands when presenting to each person. Serve tea to the parents first, then proceed in order from the oldest participant to the youngest; for example, the groom's parents, then his paternal grandparents, maternal grandparents, oldest uncles and aunts, down to the older sibling. When offering the tea, address each person by their formal title, such as "grandmother" or "great aunt" and say, "Please



drink the tea and thank you for being here."

Depending on how traditional the family is, the bride and groom may be required to also bow to the parents and elders before offering tea. Together while kneeling, bow at a 90 degree angle and touch your foreheads to the ground. Hands are placed in front of the face with palms down (make sure there is a clean cloth placed on the floor). This type of bow is a very respectful gesture.

Words of Wisdom and Gifts: After drinking the tea, parents and family members will give words of wisdom about marriage. The couple will usually receive red envelopes also known as "lai si," meaning "lucky," which contain money or gifts of precious jewelry. The envelopes and gifts are usually placed on the platter which holds the tea cups.

The Chinese wedding tea ceremony is a very meaningful and beautiful time honored tradition and is a lovely way to thank those who have been important in your lives.

Charmy & Steve Kim
Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica

PHOTOGRAPHED BY VICTOR SIZEMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

Wedding Consulting by Carolyn Chen, The Special Day

Charmy and Steve have a history with the Anaheim Angels. After five years of friendship, the couple finally began dating, but decided to keep their romance a secret from their friends. They were found out at game seven of the 2002 World series at the Angels Stadium when a TV camera caught the couple snuggling up together in the stands. Naturally, Steve thought the Angels stadium would be a perfect proposal site. Charmy said yes to Steve while they were tailgating before an Angels' playoff game against the Chicago White Sox. The Angels lost that day, but Charmy and Steve hit a homerun.

HOMERUN!









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