

CITY

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**VIVIAN CHEN**  
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# Golden couple tie the knot in Rome

**Model-actress Amanda Strang weds banker Christian Cappelli nine years after they meet**

Golden couple model-actress Amanda Strang and banker Christian Cappelli wed on September 11 in Rome in the presence of 100 close friends and relatives. The ever-stylish beauty wore a couture dress created by Miuccia Prada, who also made her matching mantilla and picked a pair of silver heels to go with the dress.

Christian, in his Tom Ford tuxedo, brought tears to his bride's eyes as he made his vows.

Fifty custom-made vases, standing a metre tall, and flowers decorated the private garden where the ceremony was held.

The bride changed into an Yves Saint Laurent evening gown for the cocktail party, where guests danced and partied until 2am.

Amanda said there had been

plenty of "Hollywood film" moments over the course of their eight-year relationship.

They first met in Hong Kong nine years ago, when they were introduced by a mutual friend. But love had to wait because they were both seeing someone else.

It wasn't until six months later, when they met again, at the Kee Club, that they realised they had feelings for each other.

"When we met again, it was two months after I'd broken up with my boyfriend," Amanda said. "Me and Christian just had so much chemistry going on. We had a lot of things to talk about. Our friends thought we'd make such a nice couple, so they very often made their exit when we hung out together, leaving just me and Christian at the end of the night."

Eight months later, Christian ended his relationship to be with Amanda.

"I always believe that a guy should chase a girl, but you always give them a little encouragement to chase after you," she said. "Let's say that encouragement worked."

Although she is in show business and therefore on the radar of the entertainment media, it has never been an issue for the love birds.

They have both worked hard to



Amanda Strang and Christian Cappelli on their wedding day. They first met in Hong Kong nine years ago, when they were introduced by a mutual friend. Love had to wait as both were seeing someone else. Photos: Franco Roscioli



keep the relationship fresh. "Manners are very important. I always make myself attractive. Whenever he gets home, I'll stop whatever I'm doing to get up and kiss him hello," she said.

Christian is equally considerate. "Every time he gives me a gift, he puts a lot of effort into presenting it. Once he gave me a piece of jewellery. The stone was found in a mine the year I was born."

One of the best surprises Amanda has been given by Christian was his proposal, last year when they were on holiday on the Italian island of Sardinia.

It was August and Amanda had wrapped up her internship at the celebrated Ladurée patisserie in Paris to take a much-needed holiday with Christian. After a candlelit

dinner, the couple enjoyed a quiet interlude on the private beach at their resort.

"You know, I'd always wanted to see shooting stars, but I'd never had luck in that department," Amanda recalled. "That night, Christian told me that there would be a meteor shower, and we were on this island, no pollution, no city lights, so I'd be bound to see a shooting star."

About three hours, she still hadn't seen one.

Finally, at around 1am, she saw her first shooting stars, two at a time.

"So he said, make a wish. When I opened my eyes after making the wish, a singer and a guitarist came out of the bush behind us and started singing to me. I thought they were there to ask for money until I suddenly realised they were playing

our song." Amanda started to cry, because she knew that a special moment was coming. Christian reached into his pocket for a ring, and said to her: "Amanda, I saw a shooting star for the first time when I was 14 years old, and all I wanted was a girlfriend. But ever since I've been with you, all I've wanted is to be married to you. So will you marry me?"

Her eyes brimming with tears, Amanda said "yes."

**WHAT THE LOCAL MEDIA SAYS**

**Oct 9 Sun, Oriental Daily**

**Groupon users get little protection from websites**

People who patronise Groupon websites risk getting no refunds if the websites fold. Many of their operators – especially those based in Hong Kong – have no business licences and only a few dollars of registered capital. People who buy tour packages through such websites face a higher risk as their sales receipts are usually unstamped, meaning they will have insufficient evidence for a refund.

**Oct 10 Mon, The Sun**

**Number of newborns likely to hit 90,000 this year**

More than 47,000 babies were born in Hong Kong in the first half of this year – an increase of 17 per cent year on year – with half of them born to mainland women. With the number of newborns likely to hit 90,000 this year, some doctors at public hospitals said they might scale back non-emergency services such as natal checkups to cope with the increasing workload.

**Oct 11 Tues, Apple Daily**

**Secrets of revolutionaries' fortified house revealed**

Chiu Ping-yin is an indigenous villager from Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, who lives in a seafront century-old fortified house – a hiding place for revolutionaries during the late Qing dynasty. The house was declared an historic monument in June. Chiu said that when he was a child, he often reached into two holes in a wall in the attic to get pistols, hand grenades and bullets stored inside. When he grew up he found out that they were put there by the revolutionaries. Chiu said his father had seen Sun Yat-sen entering the house for a meeting with comrades, and that his grandfather left with the revolutionaries and never returned.

**Oct 12 Wed, Apple Daily**

**More mainlanders make prenuptial deals in HK**

Increasing numbers of rich mainlanders are coming to Hong Kong to make prenuptial agreements to avoid sharing their

wealth with outside parties in case of divorce. One lawyer said she had handled 10 such cases last year, double the number of the previous year. But she said Hong Kong courts did not recognise prenuptial agreements and would take into consideration factors such as age, length of marriage and children before deciding how to split wealth between a divorcing couple.

**Oct 13 Thurs, Oriental Daily**

**100,000 homeowners may face prosecution**

About 100,000 homeowners in the city might be prosecuted for failing to submit property information. The Rating and Valuation Department sent notices to 300,000 property owners in August asking them to submit rental and property value information within 21 days. Only about 70 per cent of them have done so. Meanwhile, the department has charged at least 24 homeowners

**2.35m**

The number of households in Hong Kong, according to the latest census figures. Almost 53 per cent of them are owner-occupiers

with the offence so far this year. One of them was fined HK\$4,000.

**Oct 14 Fri, Ming Pao Daily**

**Fake Outback steak house coupons for internet users**

The website steak-offers.com registered more than 1,000 local Facebook users for free HK\$250 coupons for use at Outback steak houses. But Outback denied any ties or co-operation programmes with the website operator, meaning that it may be a fraudulent site and whoever registered with it might have lost personal data. Outback said that only VIP and Platinum Outback customers would get genuine HK\$250 coupons. An IT expert said Facebook users involved in the case should change e-mail passwords.

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AMANDA STRANG

**Spice up your promotion**  
 The hottest way to reach your market is with the South China Morning Post's Good Eating magazine

Published on November 17, the Fire issue will take a culinary tour of hot topics around Asia, including the best spices for enhancing taste and health, reviews of top spots around town for hot and spicy cuisine, optimal wine pairings with seasoned food, new restaurant openings, and coverage of exceptional dining experiences across the Pearl River Delta including Macau, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Good Eating enjoys full circulation and is the best way to get your message to affluent gourmet SCMP readers everywhere.

Act today and call Yolanda Chan at (852) 2565-2481, or email [yolanda.chan@scmp.com](mailto:yolanda.chan@scmp.com) on or before October 17.

**South China Morning Post**  
 Make every day matter

滬江維多利亞學校  
 VICTORIA SHANGHAI ACADEMY

**Introductory Meetings for Secondary Section**

Prospective parents and students for Victoria Shanghai Academy are invited to join our introductory Meetings. There will be an introduction by Principal, a guided school tour and a Q&A session.

The schedule of our introductory meetings is as follows. Please contact Ms Chan at 3402 1024 for reservation or email to [sec\\_admission@vsa.edu.hk](mailto:sec_admission@vsa.edu.hk).

Date	Time
11 Nov 2011 (Fri)	10:00am - 11:15am
9 Dec 2011 (Fri)	
13 Jan 2012 (Fri)	
17 Feb 2012 (Fri)	
30 Mar 2012 (Fri)	
25 May 2012 (Fri)	
15 Jun 2012 (Fri)	

19 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong  
 3402 1024 (Sec) [www.vsa.edu.hk](http://www.vsa.edu.hk)