

## TEA PAY / TEA CEREMONY



No Chinese wedding would be complete without the tea ceremony. This ritual is an ancient custom intended to demonstrate respect and honor for family. The original way in which the tea ceremony was conducted was for the bride to privately serve her own family before the wedding ceremony, and for the newlyweds to serve the groom's family together following the marriage vows. Many Chinese-American couples adapt this custom and have one tea ceremony with both families present. It

usually comes right after the end of the marriage ceremony, but some couples will wait until later in the day or even the following morning. The tea ceremony can either be held in private (perhaps while the rest of the guests are at the cocktail hour before dinner), or with all of the guests present (to watch, not take tea).

The tea ceremony may be held anywhere, such as in a home, a garden, or in a room at the reception venue. The spot will be decorated with the same auspicious colors, flowers, and symbols as the rest of the wedding. An altar should be created to feature photos of the newlyweds' ancestors, and will be adorned with white flowers, incense, and fruit. Candles are also a part of the tea ceremony; one will be painted with the image of the dragon, and the other with the phoenix to represent the groom and bride's families. If they so desire, the newlyweds can also light a candle together, in a very similar ritual to the unity candle lighting that is commonplace in American wedding ceremonies.

The tea is served by the bride and groom from a beautiful tea set on a tray. Honoring family and respecting elders is one of the cornerstones of Chinese culture, and this is evident in the matrimonial tea ceremony. The newlyweds first serve the groom's parents. Next are his paternal grandparents, followed by the maternal grandparents. After that, the rest of the groom's relatives are offered tea, beginning with his eldest uncles and aunts, working down the family line to the oldest brother of the groom (if he has one). The entire ceremony is then repeated for the bride's side of the family, if the couple has decided to hold a ritual for both sides at once.

[www.dfame-entertainment.com](http://www.dfame-entertainment.com)

E-mail : [d-fame.weddingexpert@hotmail.com](mailto:d-fame.weddingexpert@hotmail.com)  
E-mail : [info@dfame-entertainment.com](mailto:info@dfame-entertainment.com)  
Mobile : 08151647707  
BB PIN : 25DA64A6

Jl. Sunter Hijau IV, Blok E4, no. 23  
Jakarta Utara 14350  
Ph. 021-30689398

## TEA PAY / TEA CEREMONY

As each guest is presented with a cup of tea, he takes a sip and then places a red envelope on the tray. Known as "lucky red envelopes" or lai see, they contain cash or jewelry gifts for the bride and groom. In Chinese culture, this is the customary wedding present, not household goods. As mentioned before, everything has symbolic meaning in Chinese heritage, and this includes the gift of money in the lai see. Just like with the wedding dates, even numbers are considered to be more lucky than odd ones (which are associated with funerals). A gift of \$88 or \$168 would be very auspicious, whereas an envelope containing \$75 or some other odd number would not be so lucky. There is one even number that should be avoided, which is the number four. In Chinese, four sounds very similar to death, making it very unlucky indeed.



Happy Wedding !

[ d'F@ME Entertainment ]

[www.dfame-entertainment.com](http://www.dfame-entertainment.com)

E-mail : [d-fame.weddingexpert@hotmail.com](mailto:d-fame.weddingexpert@hotmail.com)  
E-mail : [info@dfame-entertainment.com](mailto:info@dfame-entertainment.com)  
Mobile : 08151647707  
BB PIN : 25DA64A6

Jl. Sunter Hijau IV, Blok E4, no. 23  
Jakarta Utara 14350  
Ph. 021-30689398