



TWC

Where to Dine on Chinese New Year & What to Wear

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Call me traditional, but wearing red or some type of silk pattern displaying ancient Chinese drawings seems like the right (only) way to celebrate Chinese New Year. If you know me, you'll be conscious of the fact that I will most probably take advantage of any celebrated 'day of the year' to plan or purchase a new and adequate outfit, book an appropriate venue for said occasion, create a string of group emails taking in every invited friend's preferences and show up with the same excitement as opening gifts on Christmas morning. Right, perhaps not the **exact** same joy – but trust us to go out of our ways to memorialize anything and everything!

As it so happens, we will not be devouring a delicious typical Chinese meal in London this year — as sadly we'll be abroad (follow us on IG to see which European city we'll be exploring), but the myth of superstitious beliefs that come with the upcoming new year are well and true. The multitude of superstitions include house chores such as cleaning, sweeping floors, and oddly enough, using scissors. Sounds like a pretty chill day if you ask us. Should you not believe in any of these unfounded fears, be our guest and let us know what it's like living on the edge.

Onto which animal 2018 will honour, that will be the dog. Why you ask? Brilliant question – the date and animal are chosen according to the Chinese zodiac which moves in a 12-year cycle. The precise date on which the festivities fall on range between January 21st and February 20th. And lastly, how do the Chinese celebrate? During our New Year festivities, it's common to witness explosions of fireworks, cheering with a glass of champagne in hand and counting down the last few seconds until midnight. For CNY, global celebrations include western traditions like fireworks, but also a lot of light and sound, as well as watching lion dances, and families gather together for reunion dinners. And whilst it's not Christmas day, children and teens are rewarded by being gifted red envelopes filled with so-called lucky money and positive wishes.

Now that we've got the ins and outs about CNY covered – let's dive into the nitty gritty of where you'll be devouring a delicious meal on Friday, and what outfit you'll be donning. First up, where to eat? You've got two options – order in from your favorite Chinese and turn the night into a cozy meal with friends or your partner. Alternatively, you could go down the route by planning an actual night out at either your local joint or splurging on a high-end Chinese dinner in an extravagant menu and posh decor. Warning: whichever you choose, make sure to book and dress up for the occasion!

Top spots for authentic Chinese food with regional specialties like Cantonese and Sechuan include the following: Royal China Club, Duddell's, and Xian Impression in London, Philippe by Philippe Chow, **Dadong**, Pinch Chinese, 88 Palace in NYC, Diep in Paris, Wing Lei if you happen to be in Las Vegas, Tse Fung in Geneva, Chengdu Taste and HaiDiLao in Los Angeles,

Which brings us to our last point, and frankly why we're writing this feature in the first place – what to wear?!? As mentioned in the first paragraph, wearing anything red is of the essence – and now that we know which year it'll be, we might ponder on the thought of incorporating some sort of dog creation on either our look of choice, or on shoes/accessories. Look no further – the Hector tote, which coincidentally comes in red too, will be very fitting. Other brands have dedicated themselves to creating Chinese New Year appropriate lines, such as this highlighter palette, this cute lipstick range and in the fashion department, we love these sneakers and these vibrant socks.

As always, we've rounded up our favorite pieces for ringing in the Chinese New Year in the most ideal way!