

# Alex Perry designs both bold and beautiful

*THE bubbly flowed, Ferraris glistened and the models were dressed in outfits that were to die for.*

Australian designer-to-the-stars, Alex Perry, graced the marble floors of Palazzo Versace for a lunch of pure indulgence.

The event was part of a new series of glamorous functions to be held at Vanitas Restaurant every two months.

The \$120-a-head invitation gave 60 guests a sneak-peek at some of Mr Perry's latest creations for his spring-summer collection.

Guests were welcomed by the sight of two Ferraris outside the front door, as well as a Ferrari California in the hotel lobby -- the most anticipated new car to be launched this year and the only one of its kind in Queensland.

As guests sipped champagne in the lobby, Mr Perry and compere Chloe Maxwell posed for photographers outside in front of the Ferraris.

Ms Maxwell looked stunning in a red creation designed by Mr Perry two years ago.

She wore jewels by Calleija



Australian designer Alex Perry with models Nicky Akom and Chloe Maxwell outside Palazzo Versace. Picture: Scott Fletcher

Jewellers, including an 80-diamond bracelet valued at more than \$100,000.

Once the photos were taken, guests made their way into Vanitas for a three-course lunch by Palazzo Versace's executive chef Steve Szabo.

The menu was as exceptional as the clothing, starting with smoked salmon cannelloni with blue swimmer crab, maple dill dressing and eggplant caviar.

Each course was matched with fine wines, starting with a Basa Blanco Rueda 2007, a

Carrick Unravelled Pinot Noir 2008 and a Ballandean Estate Late Harvest Sylvaner 2005 with dessert. To top off the extravagance, six models paraded a collection of Mr Perry's gowns and red carpet evening wear.

Bold colours, Grecian gowns and sequins were popular, as well as conventional black creations and short jackets with matching skirts.

"There's some good, basic black and there's particularly some amazing coloured pieces for women on the Gold



Narelle Bellas, Angela Papacostas and Kay Sclavos at the launch of Alex Perry's spring-summer collection at Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast. July 31, 2009.

dresses every now and then.

"It's about cut, fit and good fabrics and use of clever colour, so that it's not too distinctive for one season only."

Mr Perry loves coming to the Gold Coast. "I have a special kind of relationship with the women in Queensland -- I think they're fashion-forward and they love to experiment with colour, so it's always a lot of fun," he said.

"(Today's fashion is) fun, it's a little bit sexy, there's a couple of racy things to tie in with the racy Ferraris but it's very Gold Coast, it's very Palazzo Versace."

Coast," he said.

"We had to be careful this season because economically things are not fantastic, so I thought about great investment pieces -- beautiful black cocktail dresses and colour, but used in a clever way.

"Women's budgets aren't huge right now but they still have to buy good evening

Nicky Akom, 21, who models with Sydney-based agency Chic and Dallys in Brisbane, said it was a privilege to wear Mr Perry's dresses.

"I love how glamorous they are -- I'll probably never get an opportunity to wear them but I wish I could," she said.

"I've worn his clothes before and it's always a pleasure."

## BANG BANG WEDDING

Dir. Christine Crokos

- Greek language with English subtitles
- Greece/2008/89mins/digibeta
- Written by Ifigeneia Kotsoni
- Produced by Panos Papahadzis

- Film courtesy of Argonauts Productions, Greece.

(Opening  
Night Film)  
Wednesday  
9 September  
7.00 pm



Starring Melbourne's own Alex Dimitriades and directed by a New Yorker also of Greek heritage, Bang Bang Wedding is a fast-paced, light-hearted and stylish road-trip set against a spectacular backdrop in Crete. Ilias (Alex Dimitriades) and Marina (Faye Xila) exchange vows without a hitch, but when they set off for the reception, a small yet important typo on the invitation ensures whatever can go wrong will go wrong. A collision causes amnesia for one guest, with only a veterinarian available for treatment, while others become embroiled in a little illegal activity and gatecrash a party of a very different nature.

"It's an invitation to taste a modern/tradition Greek wedding, starting at the altar and evolving into a crazy ride on the way to the reception." Greek Film Centre

Warnings: Mild coarse language

Cast: Alex Dimitriades, Faye Xila, Hrisa Ropa, Giorgos Karamihos, Betty Maggira, Vilma Tsakiri, Hristos Biros, Takis Hrisikakos

About the Director:

Born and reared in the USA, Christine Crokos studied film at USC Cinema School and worked with Warner Bros Studios, Copper Media and Runaway Editing. Bang Bang Wedding is her first feature film.

## Sydney Sessions

Palace Norton Street Cinemas  
99 Norton Street, Leichhardt

Wednesday 9 September, 7.00pm  
(Opening Night Film)  
Sunday 13 September, 4.30pm