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ABERDEEN CENTRE'S CHINESE **NEW YEAR FLOWER & GIFT FAIR**

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January 24, 2019 by Tourism Richmond Categories: Events & Festivals, Activities & Attractions

Chinese New Year arrives on February 5, with a full menu of celebratory events—from lion dances to temple blessings to restaurant banquets—popping-up in Richmond throughout the festive period. But arguably the best way to tap into the Year of the Pig celebrations here is to check out a local flower market.

A red-and-gold-hued New Year tradition for centuries, these special temporary bazaars are typically alive with vibrant plants as well as fresh and fragrant flowers—each with their own symbolic significance to those who buy them. There are also lots of tasty treats to discover, plus shiny toys and colourful decorations to buy.



"Flower markets are very traditional in Hong Kong," says Joey Kwan, Director of Promotion and Public Relations at Richmond's Aberdeen Centre. The mall's popular Chinese New Year

Flower & Gift Fair—now in its 30th year—is running from January 30 to February 5 this time around and, says Kwan, it typically lures thousands of locals and curious visitors. "Traditionally, the whole family comes to the market together to choose auspicious flowers and plants for good luck in the year ahead—usually after they've enjoyed a reunion dinner."

The symbolism behind these potted plants and fresh-cut flowers is the foundation of flower market heritage—and, says Kwan, it's vital to choose carefully. "Golden mandarins mean good luck and riches; orchids mean blessings and good luck; nipplefruits mean family blessings and family safety from generation to generation; and lucky

bamboo means family joy, good luck, and career promotions," she says, adding that she looks

forward to seeing the mall's dazzling New Year decorations every year.



should consider visiting on the evening of February 4.

the market itself will be open past midnight for celebratory shoppers.

That's when the market becomes one of the shimmering centerpieces of Aberdeen Centre's countdown party, complete with onstage dances, live music, and fun games from 8:30pm. And starting at 10:30pm, there will also be a live TV broadcast that includes an auspicious visit from the Chinese God of Fortune. The crowds will be in full-on party mode all evening and



But for Kwan, it wouldn't be Chinese New Year without checking out a flower market. She'll be dropping by Aberdeen's market, like she does every year, to peruse the festive stalls and pick up a few special treats. "I always look forward to looking at the traditional Chinese artbut I'll also be buying some Dragon's Beard Candy as well," she says.

Dates: January 30 - February 5, 2019 Time: the fair is on during regular mall hours

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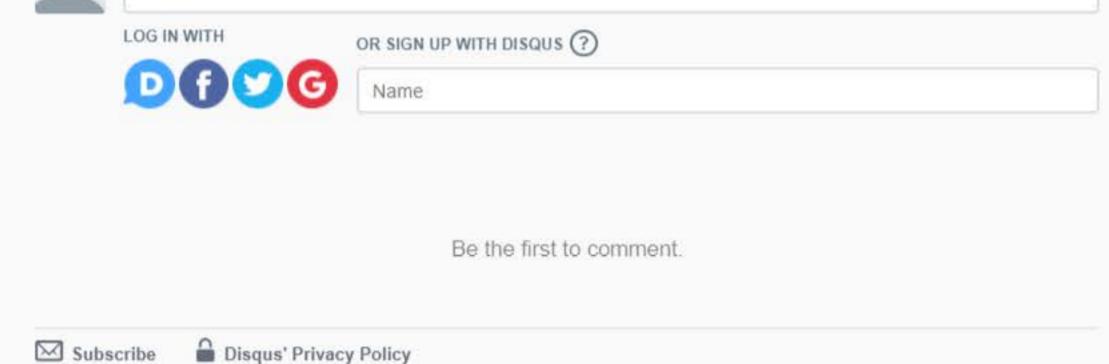
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