

The march of the penguin

As we approach the relentless party season, a decent tuxedo is a must

It's that time of the year when the Middle East social season kicks into hyperdrive. Cocktail parties, soirees, launch events and private invitations begin to fill up your social calendar. With each event classier than then next, it's high time to dust off your tuxedo, or if you don't own one, Ascots & Chapels' Artistic Director, Mahir Ali, explains what to look out for. Now go and buy one, fast.

1. Dress for the occasion

Having an idea of when you'll be wearing your tuxedo can solve a lot of issues. Are you planning on wearing it on the red carpet? Is it something you will be wearing regularly through the party season? Will it be during the daytime, or in the evening? All of these details can throw up innumerable options and details to consider.

2. Don't let the tux wear you

Buying designer options, even *su misura*, can be a nice indulgence, but quite often there is minimal room for adjustments to fit your body-shape. There is a tendency for the dinner jacket to reflect the designer's aesthetic more than it does your own. For example a chic tux from Etro or Paul Smith, are both stylish, but often have more quirk than the average guy can handle.

3. Black tie can be flexible

As formal as it sounds, there are ways of adding a touch of colour to your tux, while still keeping things classy. A midnight-blue tuxedo with contrasting black lapels is very on trend, as it offers a modern and sleek look with a lot of personality. If you're looking for something more 'traditional' yet colourful, opt for a three-piece tux, teamed with a silk jacquard vest in a dull gold, sky blue or off-white.

4. Tailor-made approach can be used to personalize

With a tailor-made tuxedo, you have room to play with the design and explore far beyond the traditional two-button-notch-lapel. For instance, slimming the lapels, shortening their length or having minimal satin trimming along the jacket and trouser, can work well to co-ordinate the design. For bolder types the use of monogramming, contrasting button-holes and bespoke lining for jackets can bring out personality, in the most subtle manner possible.

Details: [For more visit ascotsandchapels.com](http://ascotsandchapels.com)



WAIT NOT, WANT NOT

Tips on how to avoid looking like a waiter

- Opt for peaked or shawl lapels only
- Try a Midnight Blue instead of Black
- One button jackets, not three
- Wear a silk pocket square
- No clip-ons, tie your own tie
- Stop bringing people drinks!