

THE SPIRIT OF HIGH SOCIETY

SINGAPORE TATLER



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GIVING IN STYLE WITH
OLIVIERO AND CHIN BOTTINELLI

CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY

THESE SOCIETY MAVENS HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO HELPING OTHERS IN NEED, OFTEN ADDING A PERSONAL TOUCH TO THEIR WORK. DANA KOH GETS UNDER THEIR SKIN TO LEARN HOW THEY TURN DISTRESS INTO POSITIVITY AND PROVE THAT REAL-LIFE HEROES DO EXIST



OLIVIERO AND CHIN BOTTINELLI

PERSONAL TOUCH: ORGANISING CHARITY AUCTIONS

For dynamic couple Oliviero and Chin Bottinelli, giving as they live comes naturally. They actively support charities such as the Singapore Red Cross Society, World Wildlife Fund and UNIFEM by purchasing tables at gala dinners, bidding at auctions and making donations. Chin, who owns a boutique, Asiatique Collections, adds, "I also hope to use my boutique as a platform for more charitable causes." The charming lady has donated a beautifully handcrafted bag from the boutique to the Passion Ball auction in the past.

"When you are fortunate enough, it is only natural to help others. And most of the time, you don't need to look far, there is always someone in need around you, be it family, friends or people in your neighbourhood," Oliviero adds.

On a professional level, as managing director of Audemars Piguet (AP) Asia, Oliviero is constantly involved in charity initiatives. Chin is also a familiar face at AP's charity

projects which include the charity auction dinner with AP ambassador and Formula One driver Jarno Trulli to raise funds for victims of the earthquake in Abruzzo, L'Aquila, Italy; the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament where AP made a key contribution to elephant welfare in Thailand; and the Audemars Piguet Foundation which, over nearly 20 years, has devoted \$1.8 million Swiss francs to forest conservation, environment education and children's aid projects.

"We also organise an annual auction in Bangkok, where all proceeds from auctioned items bearing the AP logo go to a hospital specialising in open heart surgery for kids. Every time I visit the hospital, my heart breaks, but I feel better knowing I've helped, even just a little," says Oliviero. "At the end of the day, what's left if you can't help those around you? The most difficult thing is the choices you have to make before opening your heart. At least, for us," the couple says.

A professional portrait of Ernest Rex Tan, a man with short dark hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red patterned tie. The background is a dark, solid color.

ERNEST REX TAN

PERSONAL TOUCH: SPONSORING DENTAL SURGERY

Tan is someone who puts smiles on others' faces. As founder and director of Smile Inc Dental Surgeons, his days are spent helping patients with needs ranging from dental care to full mouth reconstructive dentistry. What few people know is, Tan also sponsors dental surgery for some individuals. He says matter-of-factly, "It's just one way of looking at life and using dentistry on a different platform."

The patients he sponsors come from all walks of life, from religious leaders to the terminally ill, the heartbroken and convicts. "Most are referred by word of mouth, and each of them is deserving in their own way - like pastors, who've sacrificed their careers and their families' lifestyles to heed their religious calling, or monks and their abbot, who have dental needs to be addressed after going into year-long meditation.

"It is gratifying to see how these patients come out of the experience with greater self-esteem," says Tan of his work. "I feel privileged that I'm able to use my profession and skills for a cause that not only benefits those in need, but also encourages others to make the less fortunate amongst us happier."