

# LifeStyle

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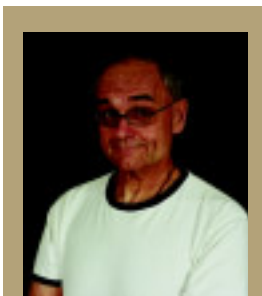
# Love & Tears of Joy

## A Journey of Red Wine, Roses & Romance

A Chinese Love Story Continues ( Part IV )

We were together again for the second night in a second city after three flights at hours not conducive to sleep, but convenient for the work that allowed us to be together: It was almost a month since our last rendezvous; our lives and travels had kept us apart. The separation from my beloved had been painful whenever I thought about it, so for that reason I focused on my work whenever possible. She has become a part of me and I her, so there is no moment without her. Only silence when we are apart. And the other noise of our existences.

But tonight she shed a tear as we held hands and talked of our feelings for one another. I can't say what it was I said that caused it; and I can't ever recall as large a tear dropping as perfectly or as quickly as it did from her eye to her lap. It caught me totally by surprise. I knew that our souls were connected and that she knew if necessary for whatever reason I would give my life for her, but seeing her cry so instantly without warning, touched a place inside me that I don't think I have known since my childhood when my world was still a fairy tale yet to be told.



Fred Tibitts Jr. is a global wine consultant based in New York. He assists some of the top hotel and restaurant chains in the U.S. and Asia Pacific developing their wine by the glass programs, leading educational trips to wine producing countries and hosting VIP industry dinners at New York and across Asia.

She said "I'm sorry" after crying so intensely but briefly, upon seeing my amazement. But I wanted to tell her so much more, so I continued. I should have just taken her in my arms right then without more words then, but it seemed as though there was so much more I needed to say before the thought was lost. The world could have ended right then and two people could not have been more connected as were we. At moments like this you experience what it is truly like to be One with another, for you have shed all your attach-

ments, your barriers, your judgments; there is only the passion of the moment and she is the most beautiful being you could ever imagine you would ever come to know as your lover.

As always, red wine is how we celebrated the evening; but at that moment, our glasses were half empty on the table, our hands outstretched, tightly gripping one another, our eyes intertwined. I leaned forward as I spoke. She rested in her chair and replied as in a trance, our faces but a foot apart. No one or no thing could have come between us at that moment. And that is how it will be.

The morning came all too quickly, as always, being that our life together is but when we meet and not as we would have it, living together. She had an early flight and we had over-slept just a bit. We hurried with quick showers and no romance. She wanted to stop at a little bakery near the hotel we had seen the night before, prior to heading for the airport. The traffic and the taxi drive did not allow us to make her flight, but there was another shuttle an hour later, so she was okay. We kissed goodbye at the curb and then as though I had been dreaming it all, she disappeared from sight into the terminal.

We exchanged e-mails and spoke once, but she was off to other places with back-to-back meetings; and I was off to Southeast Asia for a week and then New Zealand. I'm now on my way to New Zealand as I recall what has happened since we last came together. I'll be gone for thirteen more days: Then back for two days and off to Paris for five days: Then we are together again in another two cities for three nights. I promised her I would bring some very special red wine and a kiss that would be all that she had ever known a kiss to be and more. Cross my heart and hope to die. Live from 36,000 feet over Australia, **Red Fred**, over and out, until our story unfolds yet anew. ★



## Sixth Annual FTA Dinner

"A Spring Evening at Singapore with very Special Friends" at Mandarin Oriental Singapore was another memorable event for leaders in the service industry, cognizant of "Service is the highest calling". Proceeds of the recent dinner will go to the China Tibetan Children's Health and Education Fund.

The 2008 FTA Hospitality Award for Literary Excellence will go to LifeStyle (China) magazine and its Editor-in-Chief, Ricky Xu, shall be accepting the award at the FTA Summer Dinner at Kempinski Beijing in June. This was announced by Cornell Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management Dean, Dr. Judy Siguaw. Also, a \$5,000.00 USD scholarship grant to Tianjin University of Commerce, School of Tourism Management (a joint programme with Florida International University) will also be given simultaneous to the award. Fred Tibbitts and Associates (FTA) is the leading global wine, spirits and related services consultancy for National Account chain hotels and restaurants and event management. ★

