



## MATRON OF STYLE

*Vietnamese culture and traditions are often passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth or by witnessing it first hand. The following serves as a guide and variation of ceremonies and procedures are inevitable. It takes a làng yo!*

Lễ Hỏi	Groom & Family	Bride & Family	Notes
<b>Pre-Prep</b>	Groom's Family gathers at a designated location to meet, fill the Mâm Quả with its contents and discuss the line up of Guests. Groom also has in his possession the engagement ring. Will then caravan to Bride's parents home.	Bride's Family executes the food spread, ensures prep and decor is complete.  Bride hides away until retrieved by her Mom.	
<b>The Line Up</b>	Groom, Family and Friends arrives to Bride's home and lines up in this order:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Groom's Parents</li> <li>2) Groom</li> <li>3) Groom's Grandparents</li> <li>4) Mâm Quả squad</li> <li>5) Relatives, Guests &amp; Groom's friends</li> </ol>	Bride's Bridesmaids and chosen female representatives line up to receive Groom's Mâm Quả and in this order starting with first person closest to front door.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Matron/Maid of Honor</li> <li>2) Bridesmaids</li> <li>3) Female family</li> <li>4) Girlfriends</li> </ol>	Bride's Family is awaiting inside the home
<b>The Greeting</b>	Groom's chosen representative leads the family toward Bride's family's home. Groom's Rep is greeted by Bride's Rep and is invited inside Bride's family's home. Groom's rep leads his family and entourage into Bride's home	Bride's chosen representative greets Groom's representative and family and invites them in.	Representative of either side is most likely to be someone who is well-spoken and highly respected.

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<b>The Handover</b>	Groom's family proceeds to enter Bride's home. As bearers of the Mâm Quả approach the door, they will hand over the gifts to the Bride's side.	Bride's Bridesmaids and chosen female representatives accept gifts and brings into home.	
<b>Settling In</b>	Groom's family find their standing place and settles in. Grandparents are most likely to sit.	The Mâm Quả receivers set gifts on a table, but contents are not yet revealed.	Plan chairs ahead for Grandparents.
<b>Meanwhile...</b>	Groomsmen and Mâm Quả bearers have option to exit staged area	Bridesmaids and Mâm Quả receivers also have the option to exit staged area	Participants left are immediate family, extended family and VIP guests.  If there is standing room, by all means the Mâm Quả squad is welcome to stay.
<b>The Introductions</b>	Groom's Rep introduces immediate and extended family who are present.	Bride's rep will do the same and introduce present family	
<b>The Reveal</b>		Contents of Mâm Quả are revealed by the Bride's Representative and accepted by her family. Contents are called out.	
<b>The Presentation</b>		Bride's Representative signals to Mother of Bride to retrieve Bride, who's been primping this entire time.  Mother of the Bride will retrieve Bride and lead her to where both Families are gathered.	Bride's representative announces to families that this is the happy couple to-be.  Bride stands with her Groom.
<b>The Gift of Sparkle</b>	Groom presents Bride with the engagement ring and places on her finger (again).	Bride accepts ring and continues standing with him.	
	Mother of the Groom presents and adorns Bride with necklace and earring set.	Bride accepts gifts from future Mother-in-law	Symbolizes welcoming of new daughter-in-law

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<b>The Serving of Tea</b>	Bride and Groom together will serve tea to their Parents & Grandparents.		Symbolizes respect and gratitude toward parents & grandparents for raising Bride & Groom.
<b>Prayers &amp; Offerings</b>	Groom holds tray with tea pot and cups	Bride pours tea and mời Grandparents and Parents	Following the tea ceremony, families of Catholic faith often pray and sing hymns asking for blessings for the new couple.
<b>The Reception</b>			Once the praying concludes, Lễ Hỏi is followed with a reception of food, drink and celebration.  It is a sign of respect when the Bride & Groom serve and mời parents and grandparents. They are then able to join their friends in celebration.
<b>Sharing is Caring</b>	Groom's Mâm Quả bearers also line up again to accept the sharing of gifts.	Before the Groom and family retire from the reception, the Bride's Mâm Quả receivers will line up to share a portion of the gifts.	Sharing allows the Groom and his family to continue spreading the news of the engagement with other family who were not able to attend.