

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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Feng Shui and Love in the Year of the Fire Horse

A client's boyfriend is expected to return from a trip to Europe around Valentine's Day, just as the Lunar New Year begins, and the Year of the Fire Horse arrives – three timely moments converging to create a trifecta of romance.

2026 is setting up to be an action-packed, fiery year. The Chinese Lunar New Year, occurring on February 17, 2026, ushers in the Year of the Fire Horse. For 12 months, the Fire Horse will set an intense tone that triggers dramatic shifts, speedy action, and rebellious energy. It emphasizes dynamic energy, independence, bold changes, and creative expression, favoring action and decisive choices.

Fire Horse years occur only once every 60 years (e.g., 1906, 1966) and are known for significant global shifts, major breakthroughs, and cultural upheaval. Expect opportunities for travel, learning new skills, and developing passions. Those born during Horse years (recent birth years include 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014) will find that their driven, free-spirited, fast-paced energy is amplified and mirrored back to them. As a result of setting the tone for all other signs this year, they'll take the stage and be even more capable of making their mark. They will benefit significantly in the Year of the Horse because the energy aligns naturally with their core. They move in complete harmony with the year's rhythm, experiencing increased freedom, movement, opportunity, growth, travel potential and renewed passion.

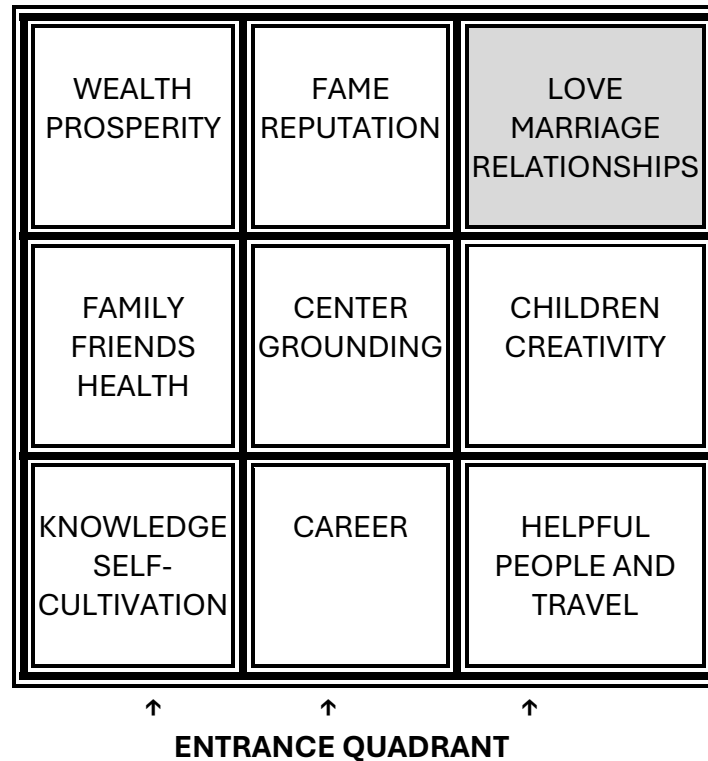
Those born under the signs of Dog, Sheep, and Tiger are also predicted to have particularly fortunate years, while everyone benefits from embracing change and taking bold, yet calculated, steps.

You can use Feng Shui to help you harness this powerful Fire Horse energy, leading to a more romantic year.

Harnessing Horse Year's Power for Love and the Bagua:

The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams," with the center acting as the core for grounding. The Love and Marriage area is in the back right corner of your house. In the I Ching, this area of your home or business is called "receptive earth." This means beginning with loving yourself and being receptive to the give-and-take of a relationship with your soul mate. One of the best ways to honor and love yourself is to give yourself the gift of a warm, well-balanced, and decluttered home.

When you take time to give yourself little gifts, it becomes much easier to receive them from other people. Begin the Year of the Horse by loving yourself and appreciating how amazing you are.



Remembering the connection between romantic love and self-love, treat yourself lovingly every day. Use your best bedding, wear your best nightclothes, light candles, buy yourself flowers. To attract love, be completely loving to yourself. In whichever room of your home this area of the Bagua resides, using basic Feng Shui principles to enhance it can help you nurture and strengthen yourself, your relationships, and even send out energy to help you find your perfect soul mate.

Interior Enhancements for the Love, Marriage, and Relationships Area (Choose One or More)

- Begin by decluttering the space.
- Add shades of red, pink, and white.
- Enhance with art representing pairs (lovebirds, two hearts, two candles etc.)
- If you are already in a relationship, display pictures of you and your significant other.
- Display items in the shapes of cones or triangles, or representations of hearts.
- Add your affirmations calling in love and romance.

Exterior Enhancements for the Love, Marriage, and Relationships Area (Choose One or More)

- Continue with the red, pink, and white color spectrum in flowers, pots, cushions.
- Display garden art in pairs.
- If you have room, add a bistro table with two chairs.
- Add your affirmations calling in love and romance.

What to Avoid in the Love, Marriage, and Relationships Area

- Art that represents single people or evokes emotions of sadness or loneliness
- White, gray, blue, or green wall colors in the master bedroom are too cool for romance.
- Too much of the color black, representing the Water element which douses fire

The Master Bedroom

In Feng Shui, the perfect room for the Love, Marriage, and Relationships area is the master bedroom. Unfortunately, not all homes are designed this way and rooms other than the master bedroom may occupy the back right corner of your home. No matter where on the Bagua map your master bedroom is located, it is still considered the most important room for Love, Marriage, and Relationships. If your master bedroom is in another Bagua area, you will want to enhance it with the elements that represent that area, as well as with the elements that represent Love, Marriage, and Relationships. As you decorate, declutter, and enhance this area, it is important to incorporate some of the red spectrum colors to bring in the Fire element, along with pairs of items and romantic representations. If you are single and looking for a relationship, you should design the room as if two people are already living there. For example, make sure there are two nightstands, two lamps, and extra room in the closet. This signifies your intention.

Common mistake:

The master bedroom is intended to be a romantic boudoir; it should not be overly filled with pictures of children, mothers/fathers, in-laws and extended family. The Children and Creativity as well as the Family, Friends and Health areas of your home are ideal locations for family pictures.

Feng Shui at work:

"I can't seem to find romance that lasts. Since I moved into this house, my relationships begin, but then just seem to poop out. I want a meaningful relationship to last. I want to be someone's Valentine. What can I do?" This was a request from one of my clients. I had my suspicions, and as we began the consultation, her house told the story. Her Love, Marriage, and Relationships area was situated in a sunroom in the back corner of the house. It had become a storage room for everything left over from her move. It was cluttered and, unfortunately, also the location of a messy cat box. I encouraged this client to declutter the sunroom immediately. She organized the storage boxes into "giveaways," "throwaways," and "keep." Next, she painted the room a soft mauve and added white wooden bookcases to feature books and romantic items, including a pair of red candles, two lovebirds, and a pink flower arrangement. She found a few posters of couples in different romantic locations (hugging under the Eiffel Tower and strolling hand in hand on a beach), which she hung in

wooden frames. She found a wonderful white box structure with a roof and draped a dish towel with red hearts over it to further enhance it. It looked like a piece of furniture. She made affirmations and stepped back to enjoy the lovely room. She called me to share the good news of the wonderful new relationship she was in and that “this one’s a keeper.”

Affirmations and Inner Work:

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing your home or business. All enhancements need to be made with intentionality, with written or stated affirmations as if they have already happened. Examples of affirmations for the “Love and Marriage” area:

“I attract, joy, and love into my life”, “I love, respect and honor myself”, “I am in a loving relationship with my soulmate.”

Bring the good luck of the Horse Year to you. This Valentine’s Day creates a space in your home, and life, for a loving relationship with your perfect mate. Enlist the energy in your environment to help you achieve your goals. With the power of the Fire Horse this is your year to make love happen. Hold on to the saddle and enjoy the ride!

For questions or home consultations email at mtmccull@aol.com and put “Feng Shui” on the subject line, or visit my website at www.fengshuibymaria.com, (where you can read past columns), or Facebook “Feng Shui by Maria”, where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

My book is now available for purchase on my website, and at Bookshop Benicia.

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* **Check out my BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on “Blog”: You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

Until then...Blessings!

Maria McCullough is the owner / founder of **Feng Shui by Maria**

(www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience, and now author of the book, **“Empower Your Life Through Feng Shui – An Easy Eight Step Guide to achieving Your Goals.”** She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books. Maria specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She offers virtual consultations nationally and internationally, as well as in person local