

# What does it take to be summit host?

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the June 12 Trump-Kim summit is “the first step towards both sides resuming a dialogue”. Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan quipped, “I tell both the North Koreans and the Americans, we are there to serve tea and coffee.” But an elaborate exercise in planning and protocol has been under way for weeks as Singapore hosts the historic diplomatic event.



## WHY SINGAPORE?

- Singapore was chosen as the site for the summit between US President Donald Trump and Mr Kim Jong Un, Chairman of North Korea's State Affairs Commission, mainly because of its neutrality and the security it can provide.
- It has maintained close diplomatic ties with the US and has also established relations with North Korea, which has an embassy on Singapore soil.
- It offers a comfortable environment for the summit without both leaders stepping on each other's “home turf”.
- It has held other landmark summits, including the 2015 meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and then Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou (right). Back in 1993, Singapore also played host to the Wang-Koo talks between China and Taiwan.

## WHERE WILL THE



### CAPELLA SINGAPORE

- The summit will be held here.
- Owned by the Kwee family of Pontiac Land Group, Capella Singapore was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster.
- The Government has issued a public order gazetted the entire island of Sentosa and waters off its south-west beaches as a “special event area” from June 10 to 14, during which certain activities will be restricted and those entering may be subject to security checks.
- A “special zone” within the area, which envelops Capella hotel, Resorts World Sentosa and Palawan Beach, will have even stricter security checks.

## ACTION BE?



### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

- Mr Trump is likely to stay here.
- The area surrounding the luxury hotel has been declared a “special event area” for the period June 10 to 14.
- The hotel has experience in hosting high-security events, such as the meeting between Chinese President Xi and then Taiwanese President Ma in 2015, and the Shangri-La Dialogue which attracts dozens of defence ministers each year – the latest of which ended last Sunday.
- It has also hosted former US presidents Barack Obama and George H.W. Bush.



### THE ST REGIS SINGAPORE

- Mr Kim is likely to stay at this hotel.
- The gazetted area around Shangri-La Hotel includes other high-end hotels, including The St Regis Singapore.
- It was the choice hotel for the Chinese delegation in 2015, when Singapore hosted the Xi-Ma meeting.

PHOTOS:  
EPA, REUTERS, SYAMIL SAPARI, LIANHE ZAOBAO,  
LEE JIA WEN, ASIAN CULINARY INSTITUTE, ASIA'S  
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SUNDAY TIMES GRAPHICS

## WHAT ELSE TO LOOK OUT FOR?

- Protocol dictates that Mr Trump and Mr Kim should not enter via the same entrance for their bilateral meeting – to avoid the perception that one arrived first and is “waiting” for the other.
- Also, neither leader should stay at the summit venue, so neither is seen as a host receiving his visitor.
- Fostering an air of equality between the two visiting leaders. The planes the two leaders travel in should be equally



**Two glasses containing the Trump-Kim summit themed cocktail, named The Bromance, are prepared at the Hopheads bar in Singapore.**



**Chef Anthony Yeoh**, 36, of Clementi bistro Summer Hill, envisioned a “Korean thanksgiving”, complete with a turkey done in gochujang (gochujang is a red chilli paste quintessential in Korean cuisine).

impressive, and the same goes for their cars.

- The question of who sits where at the main table for any banquet also has to be carefully arranged.
- Even the serving of tea and coffee has to be thought through carefully. Many foreigners are not used to the local Nanyang coffee, so an international brew has to be served instead.



**Wild Rocket chef Willin Low**, 46, would give the two leaders their beef fix, but rendang-style – slow-cooked prime short rib from the US with a side of kimchi achar pickles, as well as other dishes.



**Chef Eric Teo**, 54, culinary director of ET Culinary Arts, would serve a four-course meal, including slow-roasted wagyu striploin with a reduction of Bordeaux red wine sauce, alongside a gaji namul (Korean eggplant) flan, celeriac puree and grilled cepes.