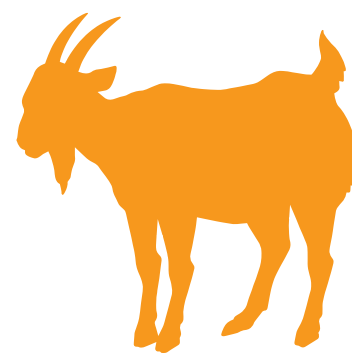


YEAR OF THE WOODEN GOAT

According to the traditional Chinese calendar, 2015 is the year of the goat, one of 12 animals of the Eastern zodiac. The last year of the Goat was 2003, and the next one will be in 2027. On February 19, a new lunar year begins. The signs with the best predictions for 2015 are the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Horse, the Monkey and the Pig. This will be a particularly romantic year for the Monkey, Tiger, and Rat. Here are the predictions, sign by sign, **by Luís Ortet**



2015 Year of the Goat

On February 19, the sun and the moon will occupy the same longitude on the zodiac, giving rise to an astrological phenomenon known as the New Moon. It should be noted for the sake of accuracy that in areas of the world such as Brazil and Portugal, this event will have already begun during the last hours of February 18.

It will be the second New Moon after the Winter solstice (which takes place on December 22, 2014). This New Moon signals the first day of the first lunar month of the (lunar) year of the Goat. It's the first day of the Chinese New Year festival, which in Macao is celebrated with three consecutive official holidays, showing the importance of the event in local culture.

This is the beginning of the annual cycle of Chinese festivities, which are still followed by Macau's population with respect for the tradition, which is now difficult to find in other parts of China.

The impact of the arrival of the New Year on daily life in the territory is much greater than the Western New Year, which goes by nearly unnoticed. On the night of February 18 and the morning of the 19th, in Macao and in other areas of China, the population takes to the streets to celebrate the arrival of the new year and runs en masse to the temples of the city and the islands to ask for the help of the gods and to consult the predictions for the future.

The days before the first day of the New Year are marked by a wide array of initiatives that build toward a level of excitement for the explosion of festivities that accompany the arrival of the first day of the year.

One of those initiatives is the "sweep", which typically is done on the 28th day of the 12th lunar month of the year that is about to

end. In 2015 this event falls on the 16th of February.

As Hong Kong astrologist Peter So explains in his almanac, the "sweep" consists of house cleaning as a way of welcoming the New Year with renewed energy. In addition to the day of the 28th, alternate days can be selected for the event, depending on personal or family circumstances.

Peter So emphasizes that the selection of alternative days must always follow the principle of "strengthening good fortune and doing away with bad fortune." Those who have had good fortune during the year of the Horse should clean their houses beginning with the front door (from the outside toward the inside), as well as those who want to "retain positive energy inside the house". On the other hand, those who have had a bad year during the year of the Horse should clean in the opposite direction, from the inside outward.

For those who have had an extremely bad year of the Horse, for whom nothing beneficial has happened and who wish for a fresh new start, one option is to opt for the so-called "Day of Destruction" during the day of the "sweep", in which the sign of the day clashes directly with the sign of the month. As an example, this could happen on the 25th day of the 12th lunar month, or the 13th of February in the Gregorian calendar.

This is a curious superstition – that highlights the level of detail given in the almanac – and it is a kind of a ritual of "negotiation" with the invisible forces of destiny...

Peaceful Symbolism

The psychological climate during the arrival of the New Year goes as far as to manifest itself in the speeches of politicians. For 2015, this means that there are likely to be evoca-

tions of the peaceful symbolism of the year's sign: the Goat (or alternatively, the Sheep or the Ram). Everyone is hoping this symbolism will become reality, after the events of 2014 (including January 2015) under the tumultuous reign of the Horse...

In the traditional Chinese calendar, 2015 will be the year of the Goat, one of the 12 animals of the Eastern zodiac. The last year of the goat was in 2003 and the next will be in 2027.

The zodiac sign of this year is referred to by the Chinese character yang [羊], a character which can be translated as either "goat", "sheep", or "ram". The Chinese fortune-tellers who dominate the English language tend to translate yang [羊] as "goat" or "sheep". The government of Macau currently uses the translation of "year of the Goat". In Chinese, this name disparity does not arise, since in writing, this year always appears as a "yang year" [羊年], eliminating any linguistic ambiguity.

The Chinese almanacs indicate that 2015 is a yiwei [乙未] year, which is to say, that it is the result of the combination of the celestial root yi [乙] and the terrestrial branch wei [未]. In the 20th century, there was only one yiwei [乙未] year: 1955.

The heavenly stems yi corresponds to the element wood; in its component yin, while the terrestrial branch wei [未] is commonly known as yang [羊]: Goat. The masters of the Bazi system generally say that the 12 animals of the zodiac were chosen as an alternative to the 12 earthly branches since the latter category is composed of abstract concepts while the vivid imagery of zodiac animals are easier to remember for those not versed in the abstractions of traditional Chinese philosophy.

In more basic terms, it could then be said that this is the year of the Goat and the wood "element", or the "Green Goat", as the color green symbolizes wood.

For astrologer Raymond Lo, as stated in his annual analysis, we can expect that 2015 will be a more peaceful year than the currently ending year of the Horse. It's true that the wood and the earth (which is the dominant element of the earthly branches wei, or the sign of the Goat) are in conflict, since wood "controls" or "destroys" the earth. On this basis, Lo concludes that 2015 will be (and thus, will continue to be) a year of conflict, but he has high hopes for the conciliatory role of the wood element in its yin version.

The reason for this is that the wood element yin (a plant, a flower, or branches of a tree), with its flexibility, will help conflicting parties to make concessions, making the path toward reconciliation easier (in contrast to its counterpart yang, which, with the rigidity of a tree, made 2014 a year of little compromise).

One of the factors surrounding the Chinese New Year festivities is the almanac predictions for each of the 12 signs, which MDT/MACAU Magazine will summarize, as it has done every year, in the following pages.

The signs with the best predictions for 2015 are the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Horse, the Monkey and the Pig. This will be a particularly romantic year for the Monkey, the Tiger, and the Rat.

Raymond predicts that 2015 will be (and thus, will continue to be) a year of conflict, but the Hong Kong astrologer has high hopes for the conciliatory role of the wood element, in its yin version, which symbolizes the flexibility of a plant or a flower.

Predictions of 12 Zodiac in the Year of Horse

GOAT YEARS

1907 13 Feb 1907 - 01 Feb 1908 (Fire)
1919 01 Feb 1919 - 19 Feb 1920 (Earth)
1931 17 Feb 1931 - 05 Feb 1932 (Metal)
1943 05 Feb 1943 - 24 Jan 1944 (Water)
1955 24 Jan 1955 - 11 Feb 1956 (Wood)

1967 09 Feb 1967 - 29 Jan 1968 (Fire)
1979 28 Jan 1979 - 15 Feb 1980 (Earth)
1991 15 Feb 1991 - 03 Feb 1992 (Metal)
2003 01 Feb 2003 - 21 Jan 2004 (Water)
2015 19 Feb 2015 - 07 Feb 2016 (Wood)

RAT 鼠

(1924 - 1936 - 1948 - 1960 - 1972 - 1984 - 1996)

After changes, calm

Everything depends on what happened during the year of the Horse. The opposition between what happened between the sign of that year (2014) and the Rat is a phenomenon to which Chinese fortune-tellers give much importance. It signals, more than anything else, change (often of a negative sort). If this change has effectively taken place (by January 2015), then those born during the year of the Rat should expect calm now. It would appear that the energy of the clash will be "drained" via this concrete event. If this is not the case, the first half of the year of the Goat (until July 2015) may still hold some surprises. All of this is in agreement with the predictions of the Chinese almanacs. Apart from this, the year of the Goat promises to be more peaceful, with a turn toward progress. Personality clashes and misunderstandings in relationships with other people must still be avoided, but the tone is clearly positive. Those born during the year of the Rat will have the opportunity to show their bravery and meet new people, and must establish a strategy oriented toward the future, planting the seeds today to be harvested later.

The almanacs refer to the presence of a "star" this year, a sort of Cupid, which will "patronize" very special relationships that will be fulfilling, though fleeting...

Closest ally of the year: the Monkey



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

OX 牛

(1925 - 1937 - 1949 - 1961 - 1973 - 1985 - 1997)

Between stagnation and change

Those born during the year of the Ox will face a curious dilemma. On the one hand, they will have a year under the sign of another "animal" with many similarities. Both are related to a country life and peaceful ambiances dominated by the earth element, in their yin root. This can be good, but perhaps too good... One of the almanacs goes as far as to use the image of two farm fields with a good deal of potential but with no dynamism for development. A waste. But on the other hand, it must be considered that the Ox and the Goat are on opposite sides of the zodiac, generating a "clash of energies". This means changes, some of them desirable, others not. But always changes, an alteration of the status quo, including travels. In the midst of this relative uncertainty, some almanacs point out that people born during the year of the Ox should take advantage of this period to focus their efforts on issues relating to their professional career, since this is the most promising area of their lives. In the area of personal emotions, perspectives will be better for women.

The almanacs see 2015 as a decisive year for Oxen. Despite changes and a few surprises, they will ultimately find themselves in a position of greater authority, due to the power of the wood element. They will have their lives under control

Closest ally of the year: the Horse



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

TIGER 虎

(1926 - 1938 - 1950 - 1962 - 1974 - 1986 - 1998)

A charming Tiger...

The symbolism given in most almanacs generally shows that the Tiger tends to dominate the Goat (sign of the year), or rather, will have supremacy over events. At the same time, the presence of a symbolic and very desirable star appears: Celestial Happiness. This star promises just what its name indicates: happiness, and will give the capacity to positively influence other people. It's very positive that this is happening now that Tigers will find themselves constantly "surrounded" by people who can be either friends or rivals in equal measure. In many cases, the use of force will be completely useless, while diplomacy and understanding will work miracles. Using force (which Tigers usually have a lot of) must ultimately be channeled toward obtaining concrete results, in work and business. Money and material goods will be the main focus. In this area, the almanacs say, there is great potential during this year of the Goat. But it must not be forgotten that the good fortune of Celestial Happiness will also apply to romantic life; the males in particular will benefit.

The Tiger is one of the three signs with good "luck" in love this year – as the almanacs point out. Even in less romantic issues, their personal charm will be magical

Closest ally of the year: the Pig



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

DRAGON 龍

(1928 - 1940 - 1952 - 1964 - 1976 - 1988 - 2000)

A generous Dragon



The Dragon and the Goat are predominantly dominated by the earth element, which creates some affinity between them. But in reality, the two signs live in different worlds. The dragon was made to fly, going beyond daily life, while the Goat belongs to the down-to-earth world of farm fields. Some almanacs, playing off of the fact that the Dragon also possesses some of the water element, which is very desirable for the farm, conclude that the Dragon can help the Goat though the Goat cannot help the Dragon. In other words, the expectations of the Dragons for this year must be moderated, namely in areas

concerning money, business, and material goods, which show little promise. It's not a good year to invest – a more conservative strategy would be more appropriate. Regarding careers and reputations, 2015 will bring new events. These are the areas where efforts should be directed, with work always conducted as part of a team, mobilizing the wills of others. Finally, relations with other people tend to occupy an important place, but not to the point of rousing any "chemicals" that produce radical changes.

One of the keys for the situation of Dragons in 2015 is the strength of the wood element. This tends to discipline earth (the dominant element for Dragons), which is good, awakening ambition and competitiveness

Closest ally of the year: the Monkey

★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH



HORSE 馬

(1930 - 1942 - 1954 - 1966 - 1978 - 1990 - 2002)

From night to day

In general, the almanacs consider that the past year of the Horse will not have been easy for people born under this sign. Even though there may have been success, the costs for that success will have been high... But for this year of the Goat the predictions have a completely different tone. The Horse and the Goat get along quite well together, allowing for good partnerships with other people, or even with certain circumstances. Moreover, the capacity to form complimentary relationships in all aspects of life is one of the key factors this year. Another component is protection. Whether there are problems or not, there will always be someone to protect and someone who helps, as the almanacs assure. Or else there will

simply be good luck! Passionate energy is the gift of Horses, which makes them adored by other people. The flipside of this, in its symbolism, that they spend their lives working for others. Now is the time to make peace with this fact. Don't force yourselves too much, and leave opportunity for good luck! It's that simple.

The wood element, which will be particularly strong this year, "feeds" the fire of the Horse. Or rather, it makes it stronger, preparing them for the future. This is good for learning and academic life

Closest ally of the year: the Goat

RABBIT 兔

(1927 - 1939 - 1951 - 1963 - 1975 - 1987 - 1999)

Getting along is necessary

The path to success lies in relationships with other people and the help that these people can give. The promise of good news on the romantic side of life, which the almanacs predict for the end of the year of the Horse, may still come to pass during the current year (if this has not happened already), up until the month of July. But the real issue at hand now is the relationship with others in all aspects of life. For example, in professional life success will come not so much from personal effort but rather as a consequence of the intervention of other people. In business life and that which has to do with material gains, things will be easier when resulting from family relationships or friends or good impressions made on partners or clients. In other words, the key factor for every event will be the networks of contacts and relationships that will allow real miracles to happen. Therefore, Rabbits should step out this year and cultivate relationships with other people, in as disinterested a way as possible. Everything else that has to happen will happen naturally and spontaneously.

A decisive aspect, making this a very positive year for Rabbits, is the fact that their sign and the sign of the year, the Goat, belong to the same zodiac family, together with the Pig

Closest ally of the year: the Pig

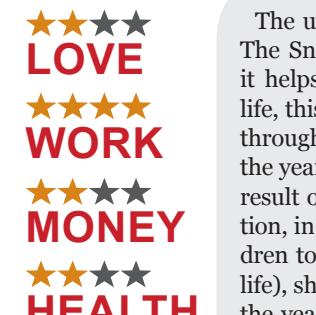


★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

SNAKE 蛇

(1929 - 1941 - 1953 - 1965 - 1977 - 1989 - 2001)

Hibernating...



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

The universal energy qi circulates in the Snake for the Goat. The Snake, strong and protected, can help the Goat. And, as it helps, it will also conquer... Translating this into practical life, this means that the path to success often happens to shine through the success of others. For example, those born during the year of the Snake help their collaborators to shine and, as a result of this, their own reputation will be reinforced. In addition, in their role as parents, they succeed in helping their children to obtain good results in their studies (or in professional life), shining in this way. On the other hand, those born during the year of the Snake should themselves take advantage of all opportunities to put their own value on display. This should be seen as sowing seeds for the future, an investment to be reaped later. The time will come to reap the benefits. Another particularity of this year is the presence of the Yi Ma star, the "mobility star", which indicates the probability of movements and travels. Whenever one of these situations arises, it's good news, a bearer of good fortune.

Despite the predisposition for travel and movement, this is a year of accumulation of strength and knowledge. Most of the time, Snakes will remain coiled around themselves, though actively preparing for the future

Closest ally of the year: the Rooster

★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

GOAT 羊

(1931 - 1943 - 1955 - 1967 - 1979 - 1991 - 2003)

A bit of caution goes a long way

This is the year of the Goat, which is not necessarily good news for people born under this sign. It's as if someone entered into land controlled by another person (a similar person), generating a reaction from the "owner" of the land. This is merely an image. In practice, Goats should expect competition more than anything else. It's clear that if they are careful in their path toward "foreign lands", the year may end positively. The almanacs recommend behavior that is as "low profile" as possible. Whenever a situation arises that may lead to conflict, it is recommended to retreat, work around it, avoid confrontation! Despite a certain tendency to imagine that everything will go wrong, the truth is that this year should be taken as a time of objective progress toward success. It's worthwhile to be ambitious now, aiming more at future success than immediate success. Money and love are, at the outset, the aspects that will benefit the least. But in the concrete case of the males it may even be a positive year in terms of personal life.

Despite some "quaking", the wood element this year will play a decisive role. It disciplines and brings out the ambition in the earth element of the Goat. It's forward progress, guarded but determined, toward power

Closest ally of the year: the Horse



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

MONKEY 猴

(1932 - 1944 - 1956 - 1968 - 1980 - 1992 - 2004)

Love and Success

On a symbolic level, the Monkey is intelligent, active, and a lover of freedom. However, the Goat is very connected to life in farm areas and is a peaceful animal. The Monkey may enter foreign territory and make himself accepted, while the Goat doesn't care about this. A perfect situation. In terms of energy circulation, two factors must be kept in mind. First, the earth of the Goat feeds, supports, and protects the metal of the Monkey. This predicts a year of some comfort, in which Monkeys will move toward a more lucid, creative side of life. Second, the presence of the wood element must be kept in mind. Wood is an element that is also strong this year, representing money and material goods. Opportunities will tend to present themselves spontaneously and, in large part, as a result of a good network of personal contacts, which will work perfectly. Finally, those born under the Monkey sign will be accompanied by the presence of the Star of Love, which will guarantee a very special capacity in relationships with others, whether in love or in other aspects of life.

The Star of Love is one of the dominant "influences" of the year. But those born during the year of the Monkey also have the presence of the Sun, which signifies that people of the males will have a decisive role in their lives

Closest ally of the year: the Rat



★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

ROOSTER 雞

(1933 - 1945 - 1957 - 1969 - 1981 - 1993 - 2005)

A holiday feeling



In business or in issues regarding money and material goods, those born under the sign of the Rooster will need to count on their own efforts above all else. Nevertheless, this aspect of life will be one of the catalysts of the year, and opportunities will arise. The other catalyst will have to do with a certain environment of "recharging batteries", which can happen, for instance, because of the decision to learn something new, in the area of professional life, or personal life. In romantic life, people of the males will benefit the most, but the males will

have a positive note as well. The final recommendation is: it is ok to relax a bit, within reasonable limits. But at the same time, very concrete objectives must be defined to be obtained throughout the year. Above all, practical issues must not be ignored, particularly since this will be one of the catalysts of the year. This way the year will be clearly positive, indicating progress and even unexpected luck.

Some almanacs argue that this year, Roosters will be somewhat lacking in energy. Their dominant element, metal, won't have the opportunity to shine, due to a lack of water and excess of earth. But this will only be a passing phase

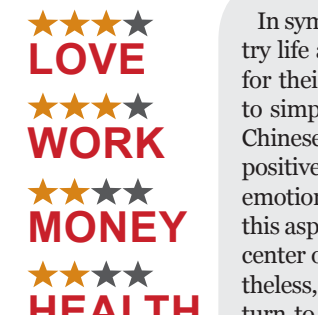
Closest ally of the year: the Snake

★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

DOG 狗

(1934 - 1946 - 1958 - 1970 - 1982 - 1994 - 2006)

A year of opportunity



In symbolic terms, the Dog and the Goat are connected to country life and farms. Their tendency is to find pragmatic solutions for their respective territorial management. It's always possible to simplify things that would otherwise be complicated, as one Chinese almanac reminds us. This is a good thing. But one less positive element has to do with a certain irritability and a more emotional attitude of those born under the sign of the Dog. Once this aspect is under control, this year will bring with it events that center on professional life, with promising opportunities. Nevertheless, to be able to take advantage of them, Dogs will need to turn to the help of colleagues or associates, which makes good relationships with others one of the keys to success. But it won't be a good year for investments, and they shouldn't put too much stock in "big ideas" regarding business. Associates or partners will always end up being the biggest beneficiaries. Finally, in romance, the positive outweighs the negative, though not overwhelmingly.

According to the almanacs, for those born in the year of the Dog, a "star" emerges in their destinies: the Moon. This means a constructive entry on the scene by a person of the males. This will be positive and decisive for success

Closest ally of the year: the Tiger

★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH

PIG 豬

(1935 - 1947 - 1959 - 1971 - 1983 - 1995 - 2007)

In harmony with the year



For the Pig, the wood element – particularly strong this year – signifies action, the expression of personal talents and reputation, or even fame. The same element has to do with the special connection

that exists between the Pig and the Goat, which predicts the appearance of very favorable circumstances. It will be easier to finish personal projects. The universal energy qi circulates in the water element (that exists inside the Pig sign) for the wood element this year. This creates a beneficial "current" which must be taken advantage of. Pigs must remain attentive to the circumstances that develop and, without fear, allow themselves to be carried by the energy flow. Finally, contact networks – whether with friends, family, colleagues, or clients – will play a

very important role throughout the year. Additionally, people born under the Pig sign have a special gift for creating a good environment in personal relationships. Finally, the nature of the luck that tends to accompany Pigs throughout their lives must be kept in mind, and that this will be evident this year.

Despite the fact that the capacity to present themselves and shine are one of the upsides of this year, the earth element (of the goat) must not be forgotten, which helps to discipline the water element of the Pig. It's important to maintain high standards and ambition throughout the year

Closest ally of the year: the Rabbit

★★★★★
LOVE
★★★★★
WORK
★★★★★
MONEY
★★★★★
HEALTH