



IT MUST BE LOVE

The hype is huge and the findings are somewhat disturbing but the future of online dating in Vietnam is looking good according to our single gal Giselle Whiteaker. Photos by Quinn Ryan Mattingly

I AM NEVER IN THE RIGHT SITUATION TO consider Valentine's Day a 'celebration'. I am either recently single, or have just started dating someone and have that awkward 'to buy or not to buy' decision.

This year I am hoping for a date. As a western woman in Ho Chi Minh City I know I am not in demand, especially as I am over 30. So I am logging on to see if I can rustle up a

love life. But first, a date.

I start by Googling 'online dating.' Over 43 million results — I need to narrow this down. 'Free online dating.' 30 million hits. 'Free online dating Vietnam', a more manageable 500,000. I cast aside sites like *singlevietnam.com* and *saigondarlings.com* as they are oriented towards men seeking Asian women. *Vietnamcupid.com* describes itself as "...a Vietnamese dating site

listing thousands of beautiful Vietnamese girls". Others, like *Mingle2.com* and the newly launched *www.banyeu.vn*, show no profiles if you don't have an account. I don't want to open myself up to spam without knowing there's potential so I settle on three global sites — *hotornot.com*, *plentyoffish.com* and *oasis.com*. After all, my Mr Right could live anywhere.