How I Pulled Off My Fairytale Wedding for $88 Per Guest

Description

The weekend news had an interesting contrast â?? one couple was featured for spending half a million on their lavish fairytale wedding, whereas another held their own budget wedding for $100 per head instead.

But while I believe in creating a memorable wedding, I personally refuse to fall prey to societal norms where Millennials spend extravagant amounts just to achieve an Instagram-perfect wedding. **From bridesmaids proposals to engagement parties and finally the wedding reception, I have to admit that while they all look very fine and dandy on social media, mere mortals like myself simply cannot afford the hefty price tag in trying to keep up with such trends.**

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People were reassuring us that we didnâ??t have to worry as we would be able to â??recoupâ?• our banquet costs, but I donâ??t believe that any couple should expect their guests to cover their costs for them. If a couple chooses to hold an expensive wedding, why should the guests be penalized by having to fork out bigger ang paos?



When you have more guests, youâ??ll also naturally be spending more since youâ??ll need to find a bigger venue and feed more mouths. We had a party of 300 guests so we were eventually down to $40k â?? $50k options depending on whether we went with a restaurant, a cafe or a hotel banquet.

It took me a whole year to save $20k, so thereâ??s absolutely no way Iâ??m spending $40k on a one-day affair!

I wasnâ??t convinced that I couldnâ??t pull my wedding off for under $100 a head, but since I wasnâ??t having much luck with the hotels and cafes, I decided to organise my own wedding from scratch. The key was to look for alternative venues and vendors who could offer me quality at a fraction of the wedding industryâ??s normal prices.

The first thing I did was to source for an event space that I could rent and decorate. I looked at options like The Arts House and Hort Park, but eventually settled with **The Chapel @ Imaginarium**. It fit perfectly into my vision of executing a Cinderella-themed wedding.

Next came the tables and decor. Given that The Chapel was relatively new, they didnâ??t have any table set-ups that I could choose from, and I eventually became the first bride to bring in my own floral arch and tables to create my own banquet layout. To maximise the space available, I designed my own floor plan comprising of a mixture of long and cocktail tables rented from **Singapore Tentage**.





For the decor, I engaged two wedding vendors â?? **InsidetheKnot** to handle all the flowers, and **Floral Artisan** to take charge of the table arrangements and outdoor reception styling. To fit my Cinderella theme, they even brought in a life-sized pumpkin carriage was even brought in and decorated with fairy-lights to serve as a photo opportunity area for the guests in place of the usual photo booth.





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My husbandâ??s only requirement for the food was that he wanted live food stations for the guests, ideally with a touch of Singaporean flavour, whereas my priority was on getting a wide variety of dishes for our guests and having it buffet-style so we could save on plating and waitressing costs. It would also make for a more interactive wedding reception if the guests were moving around to mingle and get

food.

We first looked at restaurants which cater to wedding venues like Chjimes, but their packages were too pricey, so we decided to look for food caterers instead. After enquiring with over 10 different caterers including Megu Weddings and Orange Clove (whose prices vs. quality just didnâ??t meet our criteria), we found the perfect wedding caterer in the form of **Manna Pot Catering.**

We therefore managed to get 8 mains for the buffet line, 3 live food stations (a laksa station, a carved meats selection and a gelato ice-cream cart) and even a themed dessert table with over 500 servings of marcarons, brownies, meringue, cupcakes and more!







For the alcohol, we got a barrel of beer from **Six Drunk Men** and brought our own bottles of red wine for the guests to enjoy. Whereas many cake artists quoted me over $1000 for a 3-tiered wedding cake, I found mine for $350 instead.

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By opting for an alternative venue and a food caterer, as well as engaging all the other lesser-known vendors who didnâ??t price their offerings at sky-high margins, we managed to pull off our fairytale wedding for $88 per head.

This included all the products and services I listed above. I didnâ??t believe that I needed to wipe out years of savings for our wedding, and we did it. A lot of our guests came up to us to rave about the food and decor, with many commenting that the quality and taste were much classier than most hotel weddings theyâ??ve attended before. Many of them thought we had engaged a high-end restaurant like Tung Lok for the food, and were surprised when I told them it was a food caterer instead.

While other couples may be able to afford to splurge 6-digits to achieve a fairytale wedding, I refused to believe I wasnâ??t able to do the same for lesser than what a typical wedding in Singapore costs, and this was the end result. Although it did take some time to convince our parents not to go down the hotel

route and that catering food doesnâ??t compromise on the quality at all, it was all worth it for the perfect wedding on a budget in the end.



You can also see our wedding video here, which was shot by **Zake Productions.** Who says budget weddings will necessarily look cheap?

With all the glorification of lavish weddings and by the media and celebrity influencers, the sky may be the limit for weddings expenses, but you donâ??t have to feel compelled to give in to social media expectations of an Instagram-worthy wedding. After all, **there is no end to social media envy and comparison. Instead, as long as you focus on what truly matters** and youâ??re willing to explore alternative wedding options instead of the hotel norms**, it is definitely possible to pull off your own wedding in Singapore for under $100 per guest.** Keep your party of guests to under 100, and you can even reduce this further to $50 per head.

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I hope this inspires more of you to go down this budget-friendly route to putting together your big day. Have fun!

+++ Still not convinced? Hear it from the guests who attended this wedding! Featuring what some of my personal friends had to say +++

Timothy Ho, co-founder of Dollars and Sense:
Dawnâ??s wedding (or Budget Babe as some of us in the financial community know her as) is a good example of how couples in Singapore can still plan their own dream wedding at a reasonable cost, as long as they are able to spend a little time researching and planning it on their own, rather than to turn to traditional options such as hotels or typical wedding caterers.

Her wedding venue was beautiful and the food, reallyyyy good. The self-serving beer counter was very clever (and affordable!) and the ice-cream stand was AMAZING!

Kenneth Lou, co-founder of Seedly:
The biggest thing that struck me in this wedding was that it was set more like a social gathering. Food was tasty and modern but not the usual typical Chinese food wedding. For the decor, I think it was very unique especially when you enter the church and there was an alfresco area for people to chill and hangout too. There are less formalities and ultimately a good duration and setting for modern day wedding!

Brian Halim, finance controller and writer at 3Fs:
I really liked the cosy place and decor (though the location was a bit tough to find at first). Also loved the theme of the wedding and you obviously made it more special and personal. Food was great too, especially with the bits of dessert and ice cream stalls being added in for flavour. Overall, I thought it was unique and the wedding I went after yours was a typical Chinese one who was damn boring in contrast ð???

With love,
Budget Babe

Category

1. Family

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