

wedding dollars & sense

BY ANDI EDGETT & NGOC NGUYEN LAY, SKYBOX EVENT PRODUCTIONS
skyboxeventproductions.com

It may take a while for reality to set in after you get engaged; but somewhere in the haze of daydreaming about your picture perfect wedding day, it dawns on you, "How are we going to pay for all of this?"

Until recently, most couples have turned to tradition for the breakdown of their wedding budget. Many old-fashioned "rules" come from a time when dowries and inheritance were the determining factors in getting married. For the modern couple more excited about building a life together than securing family alliances, some of these customs may seem a little outdated. Traditionally, the bride's family is responsible for: the engagement party; paper goods; photography; the bridal gown; the groom's ring; transportation to and from ceremony and reception; decorative flowers; the cost of the wedding ceremony; reception venue, entertainment, and food; guest favors; and thank you gifts for the bride's maids.

The groom's family traditionally covers: the rehearsal dinner; the bride's rings; the groom's suit or rental; marriage license and fees; personal flowers for close family members and the bridal party; alcohol at the reception; thank you gifts for the groomsmen; and the honeymoon.

Depending on your personal style and vision for your big day, some of the items on the list will stand out as more important than others. Remember, nothing says you have to follow tradition to the letter! Your wedding is an expression of your life together as a couple, and should be as classic and traditional or as offbeat and quirky as you are. Play around with everything, from whether or not to bother with an engagement party to swapping out your first dance for a slide show, until you are satisfied.

Before you begin the fun parts of wedding planning, make sure to sit down and have separate, private conversations with each of your families. Chances are, they have been thinking about this day longer than you have and already have an idea of what they would like to help with. Maybe your dad is a wine



connoisseur and would be excited to help you set the cocktail menu and cover drink expenses; maybe your fiancé's mother is touched that you've decided to be married in the same church she said her vows in years ago and offers to cover that cost. Just make sure to be delicate about financial concerns and patient with any suggestions your family offers. Even if you know it's a terrible idea to ask your second cousin to be your photographer to build his portfolio and help cut down your costs, thank Mom for the suggestion and tell her you'll look into it before making any final decisions.

If your families are enthusiastic to help but don't have a clear idea of what they're 'supposed' to do, feel free to make suggestions based on the traditional approach. If you'd rather pick up some of the costs yourself, other common ways to divide the costs of a modern wedding are: each family and the couple all pay for a third of the total costs; the two families split costs evenly; or each family pays the costs of the guests they are inviting, and the couple picks up the rest. Most importantly, keep in mind that all rules are meant to be broken. The more willing you are to get creative with your budget and wedding expenses, the more you will be able to relax and enjoy the day when it finally comes along!

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In her debut book, Ngoc Nguyen Lay of Skybox Event Productions shares her insider expertise to prepare and inspire your most important, personalized soirees. Excited about your upcoming Engagement Celebration or Bridal Shower? These signature events are highlighted with step-by-step timelines, décor ideas and complementary recipes, crafted by nutritionist Tram Le, to wow your guests with healthy but sophisticated eats. It's a feast for the eyes all right, with Caroline Tran's stunning photography throughout the pages.

And as your relationship flourishes, so will the occasions to celebrate! Don't let Thanksgiving stress you out. It's covered. Is your beau a sports fanatic? He'll appreciate a scrumptiously stylish Tailgate Party in honor of his favorite team. Ready to show off your first home together? The Housewarming Party may be right up your alley. Follow that with the kiddo's birthday bashes and you'll be set to create your very own dream events and enjoy yourself while celebrating everyday life!

inspiredcelebrationsbook.com





Michelle Tu
Debbie Liaw
Beverley Peterson

AQUAFUZION

Aquafuzion is an innovative leader in the event planning industry. With their skilled, resourceful team of stylish planners, they fashion unforgettable and within-budget, one-of-a-kind weddings. Unique floral and intricate invitations are created exclusively by the Aquafuzion design team. This one-stop licensed and insured planning company captures the complete essence of your wedding wish, "to be the VIP guest of your very own wedding". The three main planners, Debbie, Michelle and Beverley are members of ABC. With over 12 years of experience in the wedding and events industry, they are known for their culturally diverse backgrounds and creative designs. Please contact the Aquafuzion team to set up a complimentary consultation.

626.869.8123
aquafuzion.com



Ngoc Nguyen Lay

SKYBOX EVENT PRODUCTIONS

The sky's the limit with Skybox Event Productions. It's a one-stop-shop for any couple, where fantasy meets reality in a rare completion of your wildest dreams. From elegant tradition to trendy romance, we create unforgettable memories for each wedding. Be pronounced husband and wife, while Skybox Event Productions takes care of all the details on your special day. As creative director and principal consultant, Ngoc is constantly at the forefront of new style and design. With a BA from UC Irvine and a master's from USC, she has been creating once-in-a-lifetime memories for more than eight years.

626.327.2100
skyboxeventproductions.com

BELLA DESTINEE

Katie's aesthetic sensibility fused with a strong logistical mind frame has produced stylish, seamless and stunning events for the past 8 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Flute and Music at the University of Southern California. Offering a fresh flair and positive approach to event design and planning, Katie ensures that the full potential of her clients' visions come to fruition. Today she is an event scholar, designing events and weddings the same way a Broadway producer approaches a play - she makes sure that the stars shine and the audience (guests) leave wanting more.

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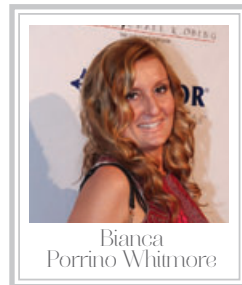


Katie Lee

BIANCA WEDDINGS

Bianca Porrino Whitmore is originally from the beautiful region of Alba, Italy and speaks fluent Italian, English and Spanish. Since 2000, she has been coordinating weddings and events of all sizes around the world, and has lived and worked in London, San Francisco, Italy and San Diego. She has worked with many couples as well as world-renowned organizations: Hyatt Regency, Bath and Body Works, Hotel Barbabuc, and Langa Turismo. Bianca Weddings provide full service wedding planning and production with packages available for day of events to complete coordination. It is Bianca's deepest passion to design and plan every single detail and follow through the entire process for beautifully executed weddings and memorable experiences.

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Bianca
Porrino Whitmore



Kerry Pulverman

DE LUXE WEDDINGS & EVENTS

The French say "de Luxe," but Kerry Pulverman executes that level "of luxury." As the founder of de Luxe Weddings & Events, Kerry is best described as creative, professional, warm-hearted and fun. A member of ABC and WIPA, she places a special emphasis on the artistry of every production. Kerry is passionate about locating unique venue spaces, often transforming blank canvases into visual masterpieces, reminiscent of her client's distinctive style. Gaining her inspiration for design while living in Europe, and combined with her background in accounting, de Luxe Weddings & Events promises to deliver a meticulously organized and spectacular special day...remember it is Your Dream, Realized.

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stacy & brian

WARMTH



LOVE NOTE

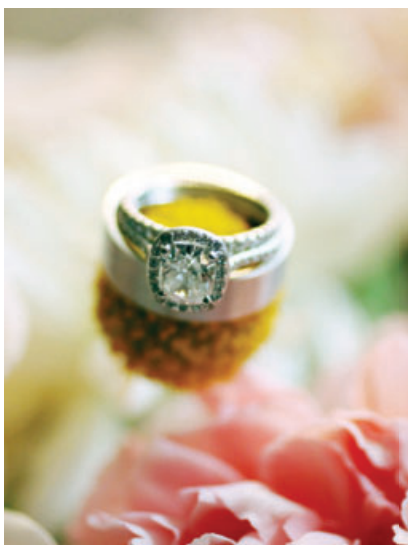
A fantasy wedding in a beautifully restored 1920's Spanish villa accentuated with domed ceilings and a giant stone fireplace set a scene of love and romance for the next ten years and the lives of these two best friends.





TRUE LOVE
stacy & brian





Ceremony

VENDOR LOVE

skybox event productions

skyboxeventproductions.com
[wedding consultant]

la venta inn

laventa.com
[venue]

new york food company

newyorkfood.com
[catering | cake | linens | lighting | rentals]

nordstrom

nordstromweddings.com
[hairpiece | flower girl dresses]

[photographer] adrienne gunde photography [floral design] lv floral events [stationery] jen simpson designs [favors] apropos roasters [ceremony entertainment] el real chamber players [reception entertainment] zuno productions [videographer] alumiq productions [bridal salon] oscar wedding group [bridal jewelry | engagement ring | wedding rings] gum mae diamonds and jewelry company [bridesmaid jewelry] palomaria [bridal shoes] enzo angiolini [hair | makeup] kelly zhang [formal wear] vera wang and men's wearhouse

LOVE STORY

It may have taken Stacy and Brian nine years to get engaged but it only took them seven months to get married. Brian believes he knew Stacy was the one for him even before they began dating. Brian is Korean-American and Stacy is Chinese-American and each embrace the other's cultural customs and have learned so much about them over the years that it has truly enriched their lives.



LOVE LINKS

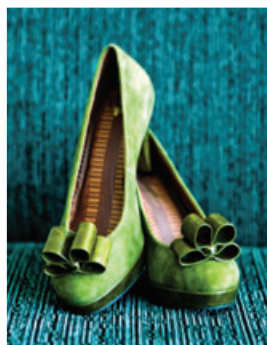
Vendors links and more photos of this real wedding appearing in 2013 on

CeremonyBlog.com

LOVE NOTE

Taking a big family photograph with both Sachi and Danny's families, as they gathered close during the wedding ceremony, was especially meaningful because they were able to include family that had flown in for their special day from outside of the country.





Ceremony

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[wedding consultant]

the ebell of los angeles
ebelloflosangeles.com
[venue | catering]

bloomingdale's
bloomingdales.com
[registry]

[venue | catering] the ebell of los angeles
[photography] conrad lim photography [floral design] lv floral events [linens] fusion linens
[lighting] tmmpro [stationery] felix rhys paperie
[cake] the sunday sweet [photo booth] push 2
start photobooth [entertainment] zuno productions
[gown design] casablanca [bridal salon] jaclyn's
bridal [bridal shoes] anthropologie [hair | makeup]
muse makeup artistry [formal wear] hugo boss

LOVE STORY

For Memorial Day weekend, Sachi and Danny spent the day visiting Griffith Observatory then headed off to a late pizzeria lunch. Both Sachi and Danny love trying new beers, wines and foods, so Danny knew this was the ideal moment to ask Sachi the most important question of his life. As they sat together, crunching on their pie, Danny asked Sachi to be his wife.



LOVE LINKS

Vendors links and more photos of this real wedding appearing in 2013 on
CeremonyBlog.com



LOVE NOTE

From the detailed wedding cake to the pops of bright pink, it's clear that these foodies have found love so beautiful and divine that they will be together for a lifetime.

michelle & kenneth

FANCY





Ceremony

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skybox event productions
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[wedding consultant]

sarina love photography
sarinalove.com
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chantrellescatering.com
[venue | catering | cake | linens | rentals]

nordstrom
nordstromweddings.com
[bridal shoes | maid of honor dress]

friar tux shop
friartux.com
[formal wear]

[ceremony location] st. denis catholic church [floral design] the flower tray [entertainment | lighting] entertainment express djs [dessert] cool haus [videography] jordan hoffman [transportation] white knight international, inc. [gown design] oleg cassini [bridal salon | mothers' dresses] david's bridal [hair | makeup] cherry's salon [bridesmaid dresses] maria rivero [engagement ring | wedding rings] nq jewelers

LOVE STORY

Kenneth told Michelle that they were entertaining friends in Las Vegas for the weekend, but when they arrived at their resort, he had filled the suite with candles, champagne and rose petals in the shape of a heart. Michelle thought that Kenneth was just being romantic until she heard Kenneth tell her that they actually had the weekend to themselves and saw him bend down to one knee.



LOVE LINKS

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