

The \$25,000 wedding

RENEE CORNISH, 30, AND DANNY JACKSON, 34

The vision 'As I'm from Tasmania and Danny's family is based in Melbourne, we decided to host our wedding on neutral turf. We wanted a relaxed, informal wedding and found that making it into a holiday allowed us to spend a lot more time with our family and friends than we would otherwise.'

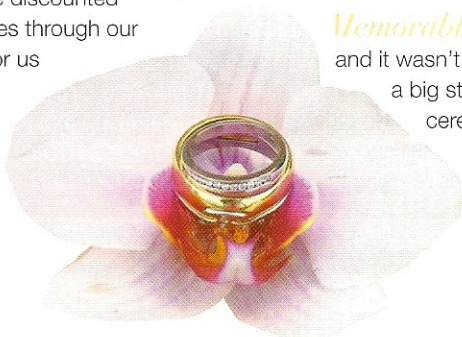
Where & what? 'The Six Senses Hideaway Samui on Koh Samui, Thailand. With 180-degree ocean views, premium food and beautiful cocktails, it was just what we wanted for our 32 guests. The eco-resort is perched high up on a peninsula and has a 40-metre infinity pool and amazing views to nearby islands. Three nights' accommodation in a pool villa (including breakfast), photos, flowers and our wedding cake cost us \$7000, while our fabulous wedding planners, Take Us To Thailand, charged \$5000 for their services. Our package also included a private half-day trip the day after the wedding to the nearby island of Koh Phangan with a gourmet picnic and champagne.'

The bride wore... 'A slim-fitting, halter-neck, ivory gown with silver beading by Raffaele Ciuca; it cost \$1800.'

The food 'We devoured canapés followed by three courses at the resort's restaurant, which has received many awards for its modern Asian cuisine. Ratatouille with Virgin Mary sorbet, seafood paella, truffled parmesan chips and wagyu beef were just some of the dishes. The head chef is Australian and he was able to create special menus for those with specific dietary requirements. The meal was a talking point for our guests as it was so creative – the food and beverage bill totalled \$6000.'

Any savings? 'We made huge savings by having the wedding in Thailand. Six Senses is a five star resort and we had all the trimmings, but it was much cheaper than if we had been married in Australia. We brought champagne from Australia for the toast as wine attracts a tax of over 400 per cent in Thailand. We also managed to arrange discounted accommodation rates through our wedding planners for us and our guests.'

Theming 'We wanted the day to complement the



FLORAL SPECTACULAR Simple styling with flowers for the occasion like rustic style. The wedding cocktails, modern Asian cuisine and beautiful views (despite a ray not even a torrential downpour could dampen



natural beauty of Thailand, so we had beautiful but simple floral arrangements. Local Thai flowers, lilies, phalaenopsis and Singapore orchids in white and pink matched our invitations. The resort is very rustic and so other than flowers we kept our styling to a minimum and let the stunning location shine.'

Memorable moments 'It rained and it wasn't just a light shower but a big storm that lasted hours! The ceremony and reception venues were changed at the last minute, but it still worked out perfectly.'

sources list

CHARMIE (BRIDESMAID DRESSES)

(03) 9427 9938

RAFFAELE CIUCA (GOWN)

www.raffaeleciuca.com.au

SIX SENSES HIDEAWAY SAMUI

(CEREMONY & RECEPTION)

sixsenses.com

TAKE US TO THAILAND

(WEDDING PLANNERS)

takeustothailand.com

TAN NITHIVIR (PHOTOS)

tanthaiphoto.com