

# EXPAT LIVING – PURI BAWANA

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expat **LIVING**

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HOMES, PEOPLE, PROPERTIES, STYLE, TRAVEL, WHAT'S ON, RESTAURANTS

TRAVEL FOCUS

### Destination Wedding, Bali-style



As two long-term expats living a combined 17,000 miles from their respective homes and families, Rob and Lauren knew their wedding was going to be an adventure.

By Lauren Thomas Massey

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**W**e met in Singapore, and lived there together for four years. Each year, we travelled to London, where his family is, and to Kansas City, where I'm from, but neither of us felt strongly about holding our wedding in either of these places. After surprisingly little conversation, we knew we wanted to celebrate it in Bali, and finally give our family and friends an excuse to travel to a place we had loved and talked about for years.

Having spent many happy weekends in villas around Bali, we decided that the ideal place would be in Canggu, a quiet village just north of the trendy bars and restaurants of Seminyak. The picturesque rice-paddy views and privacy afforded by a private villa rental appealed to us, as we had seen one too many random hotel guests in the background of photos of couples who had celebrated their weddings in large resorts.

As we were both working and didn't think we'd be able to closely monitor the planning, Elite Events' local knowledge and experience was pricey, but it saved me from plenty of heartache.

Even the dark skies and looming rain clouds on our wedding day weren't enough to dampen our spirits. As guests arrived, my bridal party watched through a window as raindrops splashed on the beautiful tables and chairs set up for dinner in the garden. Knowing tropical rain showers, we maintained our calm and waited for a break in the clouds. As the rain slowed, the event planners rushed in with a second set of fresh linen,

rice paddies. Puri Bawana was beautiful, well maintained, and had lovely staff who did their best to make us feel welcome.

The following months of planning were a breeze: this type of destination wedding is perfect for couples who aren't fussed about every tiny detail. Using photos of weddings we'd seen online and in magazines, and also referencing Elite Events' past event photos, we were able to pick out the most important aspects of the planning, and leave the rest to a team of experienced event designers, who tailor-made the decor specifically for our big day.

As the wedding neared, my friends remarked that I was a very relaxed bride. It helped that I kept in email contact with our event planner, who sent us itineraries for the day and answered our questions about the particulars of selecting a DJ, a dinner menu, a signature cocktail and a beautiful cake from other local vendors in Bali. I thanked my lucky stars (and villa regulations) that I hadn't attempted to plan the day on my own from Singapore. Using Elite Events' local knowledge and experience was pricey, but it saved me from plenty of heartache.

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candles, lanterns and chair covers. They fixed the aisle without losing their cool, and within half an hour, we happily proceeded as planned. Having been served a welcome drink, our guests were very jolly. They were thrilled that the ceremony was continuing despite the delay caused by the rain.

As Rob and I said our vows in a tiny, private garden, surrounded by 50 of our closest friends who had flown thousands of miles to be with us, there was nowhere in the world I'd rather have been. After the ceremony, we had our photographs taken in the company of our guests and enjoyed cocktails and canapés in the garden before proceeding to the stunning dinner tables that had so recently been damped with rain. The quick work of the bar and catering staff meant that all traces of the unexpected shower were gone, and we went on to have an intimate, delicious three-course meal prepared by Dijon Catering.

My dad had just wowed us with his heartfelt speech when we began to feel tiny raindrops plinking onto our main courses. After the drama of the pre-ceremony shower, we couldn't help but laugh at our rotten luck. But again, with the help of the speedy Dijon Catering staff, all of our guests quickly adjourned to the living space upstairs to hear Rob's brother's best-man speech in the comfort of the spacious (covered) hale. It made an excellent – if unforeseen – transformation into a rocking dance floor. After we had cut the wedding cake, the wait staff cleared away the couches and chairs and the dance party continued late into the night.

We're already looking forward to our first anniversary at Puri Bawana!

### Recommendations

Puri Bawana  
[www.purihawana.com](http://www.purihawana.com)

Elite Events  
[www.eliteeventsbali.com](http://www.eliteeventsbali.com)

Bali Homes Management  
[www.balihomes.com](http://www.balihomes.com)

Dijon Catering  
[www.dijonbali.com](http://www.dijonbali.com)

Photographer: Greg Farnell  
[www.gregfarnell.com](http://www.gregfarnell.com)

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## *Destination Wedding, Bali — style*

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*By Lauren Thomas Massy*

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As we were both working and didn't think we'd be able to closely monitor the planning, we sought the help of an events company, Elite Events. We spent an afternoon with the event coordinators, detailing the things we loved and loathed about weddings in general, which helped us shape our perfect day.

Elite Events then arranged for us to see several villa properties that were capable of handling our 50-person guest list. They picked from a large selection of villas managed by Bali Homes Management, their sister rental management company. We promptly fell in love with Puri Bawana, a five-bedroom villa with a large garden overlooking rice paddies. Puri Bawana was beautiful, well maintained, and had lovely staff who did their best to make us feel welcome.

The following months of planning were a breeze: this type of destination wedding is perfect for couples who aren't fussed about every tiny detail. Using photos of weddings we'd seen online and in magazines, and also referencing Elite Events' past event photos, we were able to pick out the most important aspects of the planning, and leave the rest to a team of experienced event designers, who tailor-made the decor specifically for our big day.

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### *Recommendation*

Puri Bawana: [www.PuriBawana.com](http://www.PuriBawana.com)

Elite Events: [www.EliteEventsBali.com](http://www.EliteEventsBali.com)