

Stefanie Caneva's Quince

What does a typical quince cost? Anywhere from \$3,000 to \$25,000, according to Susan Perez of Special Moments, a Fort Myers, Florida, quinceanera-planning service. Which makes the \$7,480 budget of Stefanie Caneva's June 2004

quince a mid-to low-range one. Like many quinceaneras, Stefanie and her family splurged on some aspects of her big day, and saved money on others.

The Canevas hosted the fiesta in a restaurant ballroom near their Newark, New Jersey, home. Space rental cost \$3,000, including a buffet of pasta, paella and drinks. An elaborate



tiered cake was \$300. "We spent most of our money on the place and the menu, because that's what people notice," says Stefanie. They also went all out on favors embellished with capias (\$1,000), fancy invitations (\$300) and a top photographer (\$1,800). Stefanie's gown, a sparkling, full-skirted number with spaghetti straps, cost \$400. "It made me feel like a queen!" she remembers.

But other elements of the bash were budget-friendly. Stefanie walked into her fiesta in flat shoes that cost

Small caption here to describe Stephanies homemade favors.



just \$25 and left in high heels that ran \$40. She scored a \$20 tiara at an Elizabeth, New Jersey, store. For the party, Stefanie's mother made the centerpieces (\$70). Other decorations (\$100) included quince doll

Stefanie described as "a mini me," an arch of pink balloons and ribbons which festooned the walls. A friend of the family with a DJ business kept the party hopping for \$400. The end result for all this effort and money: a quinceanera Stefanie will always remember.

Her advice to other quince girls on a budget? "Don't go crazy for the first dress or favor you see. Take it easy and shop around," she says. "If you do it all in a rush, you'll make your parents spend a lot of money!"

Sample Quinceañera Budgets based on 100 Guests

Deal-\$3,000

"At this price, we might do the party at the church or at their home," says quince planner Susan Perez. Other ways to lower costs: **homemade favors**, finding a gown on sale or trimming the guest list.

CEREMONY	\$0	0%	
RECEPTION HALL	\$400	13%	Fiesta at girl's home or at church for nominal fee
FOOD/BAR	\$1,300	43%	Simple meal, perhaps made by relatives
ENTERTAINMENT	\$0	0%	
LIVE BAND	\$0	0%	
CHOREOGRAPHER FOR VALS	\$0	0%	
DECORATIONS/FLOWERS	\$200	7%	Quinceañera girl or family makes centerpieces and decorations
INVITATIONS:	\$200	7%	
FAVORS (\$1.50 each)	\$150	5%	Made with craft-store materials
CAKE	\$300	10%	Simple cake with two tiers
PHOTOGRAPHER	\$200	7%	
GOWN	\$150	5%	From the "Angels" collection
TIARA	\$25	1%	Rhinestone
SHOES	\$30	1%	Satin sandals
OTHER ACCESSORIES	\$45	2%	Jewelry and scepter
LIMO	\$0	0%	
Total	\$3,000	100%	