

# Totally chilled in Quebec



*Lauren and Charles say, "I do" in winter wonderland*



When American sweethearts Lauren Silk and Charles Smyth from Austin, Texas got married, they swapped the arid landscapes of Texas for a totally romantic, snow covered setting in Quebec, Canada to wow their guests with a sparkling wedding at Quebec's Hotel le Glace – in a wedding chapel constructed entirely out of snow and ice.

### Finding 'the one'

We met at a bar in Dallas, Texas. Charles was celebrating his birthday and I was attending my company Christmas party. It was love at first sight for me, and I hunted him down!

### The proposal

Charles whisked me off to San Francisco for a long weekend. The first night there he took me to a tiny romantic Italian restaurant in the nearby town of Sausalito. Towards the end of dinner, and out of nowhere, he got down on one knee and proposed to me. Everyone in the restaurant (including the staff) stopped what they were doing, and clapped and cheered. I was so overwhelmed and full of adrenaline; I snatched the ring out of the box, placed it on my own finger, and hysterically wept for the next two hours!

### Location, location

We wanted a romantic, memorable event that was intimate, so we invited just our

close family and friends. A few years earlier, we had come across a travel promotion to spend a night at the Ice Hotel, in Quebec City, Canada. It was an opportunity to do something we had never done before. That experience was so different and unique that when we got engaged and were planning a destination wedding, the Ice Hotel was at the top of the list.

### The planning

Elisabeth Boudreau was our amazing wedding planner, and is associated with the Ice Hotel. Her organization of all the things required was paramount in our having such a phenomenal wedding.

The Ice Hotel Staff assisted us with all the arrangements, and even helped us create wedding 'welcome bags' filled with Ice Hotel souvenirs for our guests. We flew to Quebec six months before our wedding to meet with the Ice Hotel wedding planner who recommended our florist, baker, and introduced us to our photographer. We also checked out several accommodations and reception sites during that time.

### The guests

We had 25 guests at our wedding. We found the best contemporary boutique hotel in Quebec, and provided accommodation them all at Hotel 71. Many of our guests expressed their trepidations about the snow and cold weather, but after some convincing, they realized they wouldn't miss our wedding for the world.







## Getting the look

I wore a satin ivory trumpet gown, ornamented with beaded appliques, a lace up back and a semi-cathedral train. The dress was from Terry Costa, designed by Christina Wu. I wore white fur boots, a pearl clip to pull back my hair on one side, big crystal earrings with a matching crystal bracelet. My husband and I wore custom made wedding coats specifically designed for the extreme cold experience of the Ice Hotel. Corine Markey created one-of-a-kind pieces that were perfect additions to our wedding attire. I had a professional makeup artist from a local salon and two friends who styled my hair.

## Something Old, Something New?

Something old - my mom's handkerchief; Something New - white fur boots; Something Borrowed - ivory winter coat; Something Blue - blue garter belt.

## Groom & bridesmaids

Charles wore a custom tailored tuxedo designed by Tom James. He paired it with a grey silk paisley printed vest and black bow tie. My mom was my matron of honour. She wore a fur coat, grey hat and black pants to keep her warm during the ceremony.

## The details

Our theme was to incorporate the natural elements of the Ice Hotel, which included white, silver and crystal. My wedding bouquet consisted of calla lilies, roses, tulips, and orchids. We had a three tiered cake trimmed with a silver ribbon and sugar flowers. My husband and I have different tastes, so each tier was a different flavour. The bottom was dark chocolate, hazelnut, and chocolate ganache; the second tier was lemon cake with raspberry cream; the top tier was a combination of all our choices.

## The ceremony

Our magical ceremony took place at the Wedding Chapel at the Ice Hotel in Quebec City. It lasted approximately 30 minutes and my father gave me away we were married by Reverend Louis La France. We didn't have the typical dinner/dance reception – so instead, our First Dance was down the aisle after the reverend pronounced us husband and wife. We danced to Frank Sinatra's "It Had To Be You". After the ceremony, the entire wedding party took part in a wedding toast drinking ice wine from glasses made of ice.

## The reception

The reception was held at Hotel 71 in their meeting room, and the catering was by IL Matto (a neighbouring restaurant). The delicious menu included Lobster bisque, spring salad greens, Osso Bucco, Salmon, Frutti de Mari pasta, and lots of wine! We didn't have particular table decorations, but





I just wanted lots and lots of candles! Our guests all told stories and wished us many of years of happiness through repeated toasts throughout the evening. Our first romantic meal together was breakfast in bed the morning after our wedding day.

## Photographic memories

We used the nationally acclaimed photographer Xavier Dachez who is the photographer for the Ice Hotel. To escape from the many tourists that were taking our pictures at the chapel, we dashed into the snow filled woods behind the Ice Hotel. Our photographer captured us having a snowball fight. He snapped the perfect action shot where the snowballs that we flung at each other were caught mid-flight. We absolutely love that picture!

## Magic moments

Our entire wedding was full of wonderful memories, however one of the funniest was when we cut our cake and were about to

feed each other a piece when I felt hazelnut cream engulf my nostrils. I realized that my husband shoved the cake up my nose and smeared it on my face. I got him back with a big face smearing!

## On budget?

The whole wedding cost us £12,500 in total – £1,500 outfits, £4,700 Wedding and reception, £6,300 for accommodation. This was reasonably within our budget.

## The honeymoon

We celebrated our honeymoon six months later in Bali, Indonesia.

## Further information

**Wedding Planners:** Elisabeth Boudreau

**Venue:** Hotel de Glace (Ice Hotel)  
Quebec City, Canada

**Photographer:** Xavier Dachez