Catering Costs – Breaking it Down

David Casteel,
Managing Partner

Breaking it Down

- What Does it Cost a Caterer to Cater?
- Hiring catering – how do you compare?
- Food Trends and Tips to help you keep your budget for a still challenging economy

What Does It Cost to Cater?

- FIXED COSTS
  - Equipment – Kitchen & Field
  - Vehicles
  - Licenses, Insurances
  - Mortgage/Rent
  - Utilities
  - Salaries
  - Miscellaneous Overhead

Kitchen Equipment Costs

• 10 Burner/Double Oven Range	$5,500
• 6 Burner Range/Single Oven	3,500
• Double Stack Convection Oven	6,000
• Bakery Deck Oven	14,000
• Gas Grill	4,000
• Tilt Skillet	4,500
• Ventilation Hood System	8,000

• Walk-In Cooler	10,000
• 3 Door Reach-in Freezer	5,700
• 3 Door Reach-in Cooler	4,600
• Stainless Steel Work Tables	200
• 3 Compartment Sinks	1,600
• 2 Compartment Sinks	1,000
• Ice Machine	2,800
• Bakery Mixer	5,000
• Food Processor	850

- Shelving 150
- Stainless Steel Food Pans 25
- Steamer 1,800

Extremely Conservative Total $130,000

What Does It Cost to Cater?

- Variable Costs
  - Food
  - Beverage
  - Labor (Temp Production & Event Staff)

All vary from event to event

Hiring Catering – How do you COMPARE?

- Are you hiring for Quantity?
- Are you hiring for Quality?
- Are you hiring for a Bottom Line?
- Are you comparing an Apple to an Apple?
  - What do you know about the caterer you are actually hiring?

Catering Trends and Tips to Help You Keep Your Budget

- Small Plates/Club Plate Presentations
- Comfort Foods still very Popular!!
- Lesser Cost Proteins used in Creative Ways
- Utilize Local/Regional product when available

Braised Hanger Steak

Shrimp and Sausage Gumbo with Creamy Vidalia Onion Grits

Fish on Fire!

Fish on Fire!

Uptown BBQ on Roasted Corn Cake

Lemon-Thyme Roast Chicken on Cheddar-Scallion Biscuits

Local Artisan Cheeses

Local Honey Tasting with Home Baked Biscuits

Small Soup Sips & Double Dippers

Just a Bite Desserts
Buffet or Plated

Just a Bite Desserts
For Passing

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