

Azúl Event Venue: A new intimate, exotic space

Story by Victor R. Martinez / Editor
Jul 11, 2025

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Packages range from \$2,000 to \$6,800 or more, depending on the scope of the event and services selected.

Photo by Ruben R. Ramirez



Photos: Azúl Event Venue
Photos by Ruben R.
Ramirez
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Sandra and Miguel Mercado have always taken an avant-garde approach to life.

Sandra Mercado coordinated their destination wedding in San Francisco and invited 100 guests with a whole week of activities.

"There was a lot of planning that went into it, and I loved every bit of it," Sandra Mercado said. "If you ask us, we had the most amazing wedding."

And the craziest part?

"We had no ties to San Francisco," Miguel Mercado said. "That's how magical and whimsical she is."

Miguel Mercado's creativity is focused on designing architectural water features such as high-end aquariums, bubble tables, bubble cylinders and coral inserts for clients across the country.

Make Plans

What: Azúl Special Events
Venue

Where: 5020 N. Desert, Bldg. B2

Cost: Packages range from
\$2,000 to \$6,800 or more,
depending on the scope of the
event and services selected

Information: (915) 996-2985;
azulspecialevents.com

"For 30 years, we've built all types of water features for nightclubs, hotels, casinos, high-end homes in Vegas, Houston, Colorado, Miami, Juárez, Chihuahua and Cancun," he said of his company, Ocean Gallery USA. "We decided to do something for ourselves and bring it to El Paso."

The couple recently launched Azúl Event Venue at 5020 N. Desert, Bldg. B2, a space that boasts water features such as bubble walls, aquariums, bubble pillars and bubble tables.

"We want to keep it very intimate," Miguel Mercado said. "We don't want to host more than 130 people. This is a one-of-a-kind concept, there is nothing else like it."



Photo by Ruben R. Ramirez

The interior includes a 20-foot water-lined bravura bar, encased in Mediterranean granite in front of a 20-foot serenity aquarium containing slumbering Buddha figures and dozens of vibrant fish gliding through the water.

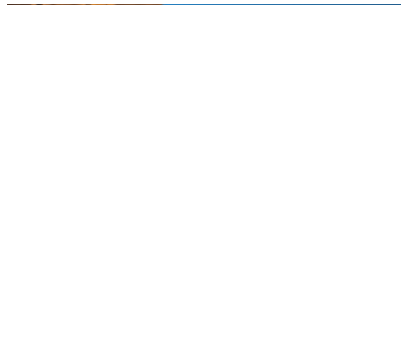
Guests are greeted at the entrance by the Poseidon Aquarium, El Paso's largest custom-built aquarium at 10 feet, 1,000-plus gallons that features coral inserts and a variety of fish.

The main table -- the Elysian Table -- is 18 feet in length and is a cascade of luminous bubbles that glide from one end to the other.

There is also the Aurelia Niche -- a black velvet-like couch, with a gleaming gold trim -- tucked between soaring, twin bubble towers over 20 feet high that is perfect for photos.

The twin towers continuously release clouds of bubbles that seem to drift and dance through the air.

"El Paso has been yearning for something like this," Sandra Mercado said. "On the Westside, you don't find a lot of venues that are upscale like this one, except for Grace Gardens. There is nothing quite like this for an intimate gathering. We wanted to bring something luxurious and elegant to showcase what Ocean Gallery does."



Every event is unique and fully customizable to match a client's vision.

Packages range from \$2,000 to \$6,800 or more, depending on the scope of the event and services and menu selected.

"The \$2,000 range reflects our most basic package, while higher-tier options include more amenities and enhancements tailored to client needs," Sandra Mercado said. "We create a personalized proposal once we better understand client preferences and priorities."

The Mercados are offering El Pasoans a unique place that not only includes built-in features but also customizable element without the client having to bring anything in.

"Typically, when you walk into a venue, you'll see an empty room, so what do people do? They bring in flowers, they bring in balloons, they bring things to fill it in and make it look special," Sandra Mercado said. "When you walk in here, it already looks spectacular."



Sandra and Miguel Mercado
Photo by Ruben R. Ramirez

You can take photos in so many special locations here, you don't need to bring in a photo booth. We have so many different backdrops."

The next step is opening a similar but larger venue, also in El Paso.

"We want to do another one a little bit larger that caters to about 300 people with an exotic outdoor garden," Miguel Mercado said. "That would be more Amazonian with zoological waterfalls, Koi ponds, water walls and aquariums. She has an idea for outdoor exotic garden with fire pits."

For now, the Mercados will focus on El Paso and eventually share the event center concept in other locations such as Juárez or Las Vegas.

"El Paso is home," Sandra Mercado said. "This is a space (the venue) like no other. It is extremely unique, extremely elegant, extremely intimate. We have a JBL sound system, we have digital screens, a fully equipped bar with kegerators, coolers, commercial ice maker and amazing service."

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