

Ben Bui and Wendy Lam at their wedding reception.



Wedding hashers

JORDY ATKINSON

Compo for botched reception

A COUPLE have won \$13,000 compensation for a "ruined" wedding reception.

Ben Bui and Wendy Lam paid Elsternwick's Maison Melbourne almost \$26,000 for their November 2016 reception, booking an Asian banquet for their 173 guests.

But the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard that "the night was a complete disaster".

Tiny portions of cold food were served up on platters, without any cutlery.

Ms Lam told VCAT some dishes tasted like they were "from the frozen food aisle".

She said she avoided her family during the reception because she was ashamed.

"I may have just bawled my eyes out and I did not want to appear like that because it would have ruined everyone's mood even more," Ms Lam said.

Mr Bui told the *Herald Sun* the food they had been served

at a tasting had been "awesome" and "wedding quality" but completely different from what was served on the day.

"We were told they would be individual servings but everything came out as platters. There wasn't enough and what there was was horrible," Mr Bui said.

"My friends actually left to go to McDonald's because there wasn't enough food and they were still hungry."

He said the "nasty experience" had embarrassed them.

"Every time we think about our wedding day now we're reminded of this horrible experience," he said. "We are stuck with this memory for the rest of our lives."

Former Maison executive Katie Smith told VCAT she was "constantly in damage control" in her five months there, as clients often didn't get what they were promised.

VCAT member David Kim said Maison had breached "some of its obligations under the contract" and ordered it to pay the couple \$12,958.50, including \$2000 for distress.

It is at least the second time in a year the now-defunct venue has been in a legal dispute with a couple.

Maison Melbourne's website states it has been closed since December 22. The *Herald Sun* has unsuccessfully attempted to contact Maison. jordana.atkinson@news.com.au
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LOBSTER AT TASTING



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ABALONE SOUP AT TASTING



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