

# 425

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a better

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25  
*Bride*

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Under \$1,000

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# a GRAND wedding

## find vendors for under \$1,000

BY 425 STAFF | PHOTOS BY JAMI DAVIS



It was a theatrical wedding with an actor and an actress portraying a bride and a groom at Georgetown Studios in Seattle. The tux, dress and engagement and wedding rings were all under \$1,000. Her gown was from La Belle Reve in Bellevue.

**Georgie Hockett** of Sammamish has been a wedding photographer for about 15 years. Brides were often drawn to her \$1,000 wedding photography package. One day she blurted out to her husband, "Wouldn't it be great if you could go to a website and know everything on this site is \$1,000?" Shortly after that conversation, AGrandWedding.com was born.

That was 2008. Today there are 22 wedding categories and about 250 vendors offering their services for \$1,000 (or less!). By 2014, Hockett hopes her site will be national. Currently, her site averages up to 15,000 visits a month by brides looking for quality services at a reasonable price.

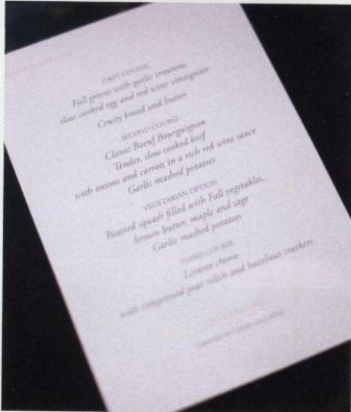
To showcase the quality that vendors on her site can offer, Hockett created a mock wedding utilizing some of their services. It was like a wedding show, minus the booths. "We wanted to show the media that, yes, you can have a beautiful wedding using real \$1,000 wedding elements," Hockett said of the event. The next day, wedding favors were hand-delivered to the guests. They included chocolate from Chocopolopolis and a champagne-scented room diffuser by local company Antica Farmacista.

"We wanted to show brides that they don't have to be DIY brides or get married in their mom's backyard to afford a beautiful wedding," she said. "On AGrandWedding.com, we've found the best wedding professionals with \$1,000 rates and we've also negotiated with higher-end vendors to create \$1,000 offers that they only advertise through AGrandWedding.com.

"It doesn't have to cost a lot to have an unforgettable wedding," she added.



Many unique touches made this wedding feel very Hollywood, like the ultra-mod lounge area by Greenroom Décor, the photo booth by Smilebooth and the coffee cart by Black Tie Espresso Catering. There was even a coat check service, a day-of wedding coordinator and a photographer - all for \$1,000 or less.



The flowers were by Kirkland's Fena Flowers. The art-inspired cake was by Madeleine's European Cakes in Seattle and the three-course plated French menu was created by Cassis Catering.

