

SWR Blog Crawl-Step Outside Your Dating Comfort Zone This Fall

2010 SingleWomenRule.com Blog Crawl for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

September 19 – 25, 2010
Day 2

Today's Prize: Visit SingleWomenRule.com to enter to win one of several great prizes including an introductory pack of cards to the new dating site, Cheekd.com, Modern Courtesan by YS perfumes, books, and more. Open to U.S. Residents only.

Guest Post by *Melissa Braverman, Singlegalnyc.com*

Summer may be over, but there's no better time to heat up your love life than by stepping out of your dating comfort zone this fall.

Some of today's hottest celebrity couples got their start because one half of the pair made a bold move. During an appearance on Josh Duhamel's Las Vegas, Fergie walked right up to him and said 'I read you had a dream about me' for her opening line. Desperate Housewives' Marcia Cross first saw future husband Tom Mahoney at a flower shop and asked the owner to give him her phone number.

As a woman, making the first move isn't always easy – and, in some countries it hardly happens at all, as I've discovered during my European Dating Blitz. Over the last five weeks, I have traveled far out of my own comfort zone to explore what being single is like in six European countries. One recurring theme I've heard, especially in England and Ireland is that neither gender feels comfortable initiating a flirty conversation. "In Europe, people don't really want to make the first move," according to Fabrice LeParc, CEO of SmartDate.com, an online dating site that caters to both Americans and Europeans. "Here, it's not accepted for a woman to make a move. A smile is the most you can hope to get."

Part of the challenge in Northern Europe is single men tend to be reserved. "Men here are more on their guard and shy than in Spain, France and Southern Europe," observes France-born single Charlotte, 37. "They just come and say hello and start a conversation." Something that most British single women don't feel comfortable doing. "I would never go and talk to someone in a bar and neither would any of my girlfriends," says London bachelorette Nichola, 34. "As a single girl, you would never go to a bar on your own."

When flirting does happen, sex happens more quickly without the so-called rules that are so much a part of the American dating scene. For European singles, though, breaking the ice isn't easy since small talk doesn't happen in the same way that it does in the U.S. "If you don't know someone in Paris, you don't talk," says bachelor David, 35. "In Anglo-Saxon places like the U.S., it's normal to talk. We are too closed in Paris."

Perhaps one of the greatest differences between American and European dating is in how singles approach their love lives. "People in France and Latin countries, they want to feel fate has a role to play," says Fabrice. "Americans and Nordics are more organized, they want to take control of their lives."

I'm no exception. A few nights ago, I decided to venture out on my own to a bar in Berlin. I wouldn't think twice about doing this in New York, but I had a little trepidation in unfamiliar territory where a woman out on her own is not at all the norm.

"Are you here alone?" asked the bouncer, clearly surprised to see that I was.

Once I was inside, I spotted a cute redheaded guy also alone, at a table by the window. Drink in hand, I gingerly walked in his direction and placed my glass on the table. He said, "hello" and we ended up talking the night away.

Like Fergie and Marcia Cross, I've found that your love life can be full of surprises when you step outside of your comfort zone. Here are three tips for shaking up your routine this fall.

Skip The Same Old, Same Old: Take a break from your favorite neighborhood haunts and venture to a new zip code. Whether it's exploring a watering hole you've never been to or discovering a new restaurant, act like you're visiting your hometown for the first time.

Take The Why Not Approach: If there's something you've always wanted to try, whether it's speed dating or a singles lock and key party, don't ask yourself why. Ask why not? and just do it. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain by putting yourself out there.

Recruit A Wingman: It's no secret that getting out of your comfort zone is a lot more fun when you've got a wingman by your side. Recruit a fellow single friend to join you as you embark on new season of adventure and romance.

Single Women Rule Singles Blog Crawl

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

September 19th – 25, 2010.

According to the U.S. Census bureau, there are an estimated 84 million single and unmarried adults in the United States. To celebrate all of these non-couples, SingleWomenRule.com will be hosting their Second Annual Blog Crawl, and this year, Cupid's Pulse will be part of it!

What's a blog crawl? It's a like a pub crawl (minus the booze, unless you want to enjoy a glass of bubbly in the comfort of your home) on your computer and it lasts a full week!

Here's how it works: SingleWomenRule.com will guide visitors to a different blog each day, for seven days, to read a guest post by one of seven featured writers. The blog crawl is designed to show case some of the most influential and talented writers and blogs in the online singles community.

Where does Cupid come in? Cupid's Pulse will participate as a blog host on Monday, Sept. 20, and will feature singlegalnyc.com, Melissa Braverman, as she talks about the differences of dating in Europe vs. the U.S.

But that's not all Cupid will be doing to celebrate the week:

- The Ah Diamond Ring for singles (an Oprah favorite) will be featured on The Beat.
- Cupid will be participating in the first of three Tuesday night events for the upcoming "Live the Life You Love" Series beginning Tuesday, Sept. 21! Watch for free ticket giveaways.

– Check out our fabulous interview with Nicole Porter, author of *The Break-up Cookbook*.

Single Ladies: Live the Life You Love

Win a Free Ticket: October 12th at 6:30

Want an expert opinion on how to improve your relationships, boost your career, or just make your life a little more luscious? This fall you'll have your chance to hear it all at the upcoming Second Annual "Live the Life You Love" event, sponsored by HurryDate and Single Edition.

The three-part women's-only lifestyle series begins Tuesday, Sept. 21 at the Samsung Experience Store in the Time Warner Center. Each seminar offers insight, innovative tips and creative ideas to help you thrive at work, home and in your community – not to mention a great opportunity to meet other fabulous single women just like you!

You can buy your tickets here, or for your chance to win one free ticket, shoot an arrow to Cupid's Pulse with the name of your favorite celebrity couple. One random winner will be chosen in October.

Here are the speakers for this event:

Carolyn Kelly North: "Dump the Slumps! Ways to Boost Your Mood when 'Dating Fatigue' Sets In"

Helen Kim: "A Woman's Guide to Your Money Relationship"

Kathryn Kaycoff-Manos and Lauri de Brito: "Fertility 101: Essential Tips for the Single Woman"

If you don't win this time around, don't fret. There will be another opportunity on for the last event on November 2. Stay tuned to Cupid's Pulse for your chance to win more free tickets!

Jersey Shore Boyfriends Strike Out

Got a fever for *Jersey Shore* cast? You're in luck – they're single! Snooki, Sammi Sweetheart and JWoww have broken up with their respective partners, [E! Online](#) reported last week. Despite Snooki's dumping her "Gorilla Juicehead" beau, Emilio Masella plans to win her back. "I've been doing everything crazy to that you can think of to get MTV's attention," he told E!. JWoww's manager boyfriend, Tom Lippolis, won't speak on their issues, but commented, "I've been better." Lastly, *Jersey Shore*'s favorite couple from season one, Ronnie Magro and Sammi, have been in an on-again, off-again relationship for a while. They're currently off-again.

How can you survive the summer while being single?

Cupid's Advice:

Summer promises warm days, long nights, beaches, parties, and even that summer fling. But if everyone is hooking up and you're left in the dust, it can get a little lonely. Cupid has some ways to deal when you're not getting your fair share of the summer hook-up:

1. Enjoy it: Summer is the time to bear it all. From bikinis and daisy dukes to shirtless pecs, say hello to some well-

deserved eye-candy! There are plenty of fish in the sea, but they're all crowding the beach while the weather is still warm. Head to your closest shore and feel free to ogle the goods.

2. Friends: You can never have too many friends. If your buds are spending more time with their significant other, find some new people to kill time with. Who knows – you may end up meeting someone to spend those long summer days with.

3. Family: No one knows you better than your family, so spend your time with them. It's less awkward than being the third wheel. Going to barbecues and family picnics will take your mind off of things.

Kelly Osbourne Parties After Breakup

Hello Sin City! The newly single Kelly Osbourne hit up Las Vegas and partied with friends last week after her recent breakup with British model Luke Worrall. Osbourne spent Thursday night celebrating best friend Blake Wood's birthday. "She seemed really happy and not phased by the breakup," a source who saw her that night told [People](#). The 25-year-old and her friends did lemon drop shots and danced the night away at Haze Nightclub after a lobster, crab, and steak dinner at Union Restaurant.

How can you bounce back after a breakup?

Cupid's Advice:

Finding out he wasn't your Prince Charming can be tough. Here

are some of Cupid's ways to speed up the process:

- 1. Take the high road:** Don't spread rumors or make negative comments about your ex behind his back. Remember, there was something about that person that made you fall head over heels for him or her at one point.
- 2. Get your mind off the bad things:** Keep yourself preoccupied with work or hobbies to keep busy mentally. This will help you focus on the important stuff.
- 3. Channel your energy:** Take whatever feelings of resentment or revenge you may have for your ex, and use it towards something productive, like exercising or staying in shape.