Love & Libations: Valentine's Day Cocktails for February Date Nights





By Yolanda Shoshana

As soon as January 1st hit, the Valentine's Day decorations, chocolates, and teddy bears are out. Now that February is only a few weeks away, it's time to prep. February is known as the month of love. Besides Valentine's Day on the 14th, there are 27 other days to show love to your partner, friends, and, of course, yourself.

That being said, here are three libations to help you show love next month:

Cocktails for February Date Nights

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Date Nights

Gin & Dubonnet

Celebrate yourself and drink like a queen. Queen Elizabeth II has a Gin & Dubonnet every day at lunch. In fact, it's part of her four-cocktails-a-day routine. It's perfect to enjoy while having some "me time." There's a good chance that the Queen will sip on one of these at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's celebrity wedding reception!

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 oz. gin
- 3/4 oz. Dubonnet Rouge
- Lemon or orange twist for garnish

Directions:

Add all the ingredients to a glass and fill with ice. Stir. Garnish with a lemon or orange twist. Sip as you are wearing your favorite tiara.

Chocolate Martini

A chocolate martini is an aphrodisiac in a glass. Believe it or not, two Hollywood legends created this cocktail: none other than Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. They invented it one evening when they lived across the street from each other while they filmed the movie, *Giant*.

The following recipe uses Sean "Diddy" Combs' Ciroc Vodka. Maybe he will make one for his long-time love Cassie — or she will make one for him. After all, it's the perfect cocktail for lovers on a February date night.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 oz. Ciroc Vodka
- Dash of Madagascar vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 oz. Godiva Chocolate Liqueur
- 2 1/2 oz. half-and-half
- 1 oz. Kahlua
- Ice
- Shaved chocolate and/or fresh strawberries for garnish if desired

Directions:

Add all of the ingredients to a cocktail shaker and shake. Pour into a chilled cocktail glass that is rimmed with chocolate syrup. Garnish with dark chocolate and/or strawberries.

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Flirtini

February would not be complete without a Flirtini. Most people remember the Cosmo being a big part of *Sex and The City*, but the Fliritini was also in the mix. All it takes is three ingredients. Enjoy with your girl squad while binging on the show.

Ingredients:

- 1 oz. vodka
- 2 oz. champagne
- 2 oz. pineapple juice

Directions:

Combine vodka, champagne, and pineapple juice in a highball or collins glass filled with ice. If you are making it for a viewing soiree, multiply the recipe by six, and mix it up in a

pitcher.

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and <u>celebrity</u> <u>couple</u> predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click <u>here</u>.