

# 'Cake Boss' Star Buddy Valastro on His Celebrity Marriage: "I'm a Lucky Man Because the Reality TV Show Hasn't Changed Us"



By Liz Kim

Buddy Valastro isn't called the *Cake Boss* for no reason. Born and raised in Hoboken, New Jersey, he is a fourth generation baker. His childhood was spent in his family's old-fashioned Italian bakery run by his father, Buddy Sr. Father and son dreamed of making Carlo's Bakery a household name, and five restaurants (in New York City, New Jersey, and Las Vegas) and four TLC reality TV shows later, Valastro is bringing their vision to life. Now, he's helping to make the cake dreams of

one lucky couple come true in Brides Live Wedding, an unprecedented wedding competition by *BRIDES*. Read on for more of our [exclusive celebrity interview](#) with the star!

## Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Buddy Valastro

Brides Live Wedding gives one couple the chance to star in their own celebrity wedding while also supporting their favorite charity. The catch? Once the public votes which pair will get the A-list treatment, they will also be able to vote on every detail of the wedding, from the dress to the decor. For the cake, there were four options to choose from, and Valastro is excited to get started. “This is the second year I’m participating in the contest,” he says. “I think it’s a cool concept; it’s fun to be a part of it; and it’s really great for the couple who ends up getting this amazing, huge wedding! I’m happy that I can provide the cake that they’ll enjoy on their special day.”

**Related Link:** [Fend Off the Post-Wedding Blues](#)

Baking for weddings is nothing new for the reality TV star, and after creating cakes for countless events, he knows a thing or two about what’s trending in the wedding cake world. He explains, “You know, the cupcake cakes were getting big for awhile, but now I’m seeing brides looking for cakes with a rustic, natural, almost unfinished look to them.” He adds that “dessert tables are very popular. They just add more variety for guests to enjoy at the reception.”

Regardless of the couple’s final choice, Valastro makes sure that everyone walks away happy. “I always ask my brides and grooms to give me all the wedding details – color scheme, flower choice, the dress style, the location,” he shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. “All of these details are

huge inspirations when designing wedding cakes. It makes it very personal.”

Carlo’s Bakery is a Hoboken favorite, but now, the *Cake Boss* is proving to be a reality television boss as well. In the early 2000s, he competed in several cake decorating competitions on *Food Network Challenge*. He won the “Battle of the Brides” challenge in season seven, and his quick wit and tell-it-like-it-is Jersey attitude caught the attention of producers. In 2009, *Cake Boss* premiered on TLC, and now, he has three more shows under his belt: *Kitchen Boss*, *The Next Great Baker*, and *Bakery Boss*.

## Reality TV Star Opens Up About Celebrity Marriage and Family

As dedicated as he is to expanding his business, he is equally dedicated to his wife Lisa and their four children. In October 2011, he surprised his wife with a second proposal. The celebrity couple wed again in a tropical vow renewal ceremony, complete with a cake that Valastro created himself. “I think it’s really important for couples to reflect on why they got married in the first place and why they decided to share their lives together,” he explains. “We all get so busy and distracted with our lives, but I knew I wanted to do something special for my wife, and I wanted the kids to be part of it too.”

The secret to his celebrity marriage? Finding time to appreciate the simple things. “We’re not too difficult. I’ll either cook one of my wife’s favorite meals, or I’ll take her out somewhere nice,” he says about a typical date night. “It’s good to have that time to yourselves, and then we come home and hang out with the kids.”

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples Who Have Remarried Each Other](#)

Being on television seems to tear apart marriages rather than strengthen them, but Valastro feels fortunate that Lisa understands that his schedule is hectic to say the least. “You know, I’m a lucky man because the show hasn’t changed us. My wife, my kids and I are just the same on-camera as we are off-camera.”

And while he loves spending time with his children in the bakery, it’s up to them whether or not they want to take over the celebrity family business. “I definitely have passed along my love of baking, and my son Buddy is really coming along,” he shares. “I would love for them all to take over the bakery when they get older, but I’m not going to push it on them. They’ll make that decision.”

Family, he says, is the key to success, and he credits his dad with teaching him everything he knows about baking and business. His father died when he was just 17 years old, and although still young, he took on all of the responsibilities of the bakery. “My dad taught me to look at the bigger picture. He taught me at a very young age that not only did I have to learn to become a great baker, but I also had to become a businessman,” he candidly reveals. “You could be the best baker in the entire world, but if you can’t run a successful bakery, no one will ever know what you can do. Being business savvy is just as important as being the best at what you want to do, and for me, that was baking.”

Whether he’s constructing a life-size race car cake or whipping up lobster tails, his wife’s favorite pastry, Valastro puts his heart and soul into everything he does. And the *Cake Boss* has no plans on stopping anytime soon. “I’m always working the next project. I’ve got some fun things in the works, so stay tuned!”

*You can keep up with Buddy on Twitter @CakeBossBuddy.*

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# Taking on the Role of Stepmother



By Michele

Sfakianos, RN, BSN for [Hope After Divorce](#)

Relationships alone are difficult. When you add his kids, her kids, his ex, her ex, and both sets of in-laws, most people cannot handle the pressure. Stepfamilies require more effort and understanding because more people are involved, and this often includes young ones who didn't ask to be put into the situation to begin with.

Long ago, the term "stepmother" was used to describe the "new" parent who stepped in after the "real" parent's death. Today, the stepmom is less often a substitute than she is an added parent. We all know the story of *Cinderella*. Fortunately,

there was a happy ending, but it did bring to light the “wicked stepmother.” Most everything you read about stepparenting has to do with evil stepmothers, obnoxious children, responsibility with no control, resentful ex-partners, and lack of worth or appreciation.

**Related Link:** [How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a Relationship](#)

Being a parent triggers memories and emotions from one’s own childhood, whether conscious or unconscious. This may or may not bring fear to those thinking about raising another person’s child. Parents may raise children similar to their own upbringing – or the opposite. Parents may strive to give their children an entirely different upbringing.

Being a mom can be one of the most rewarding things we do in our lives. It can also be one of the most difficult undertakings, and parental responsibility is not something we can take lightly. Taking on the role of stepmother can perhaps be the most difficult undertaking of all.

As mothers, we are programmed to love and nurture children. We were raised with the understanding that it is our “job” to take care of them. So we would naturally expect a loving response in return – or should we? When Mother’s Day or your birthday comes around, this opens opportunities for feeling down about being a stepmother. But don’t give in! An attitude will get you nothing but grief. Moping around because no one remembers your birthday is not the answer. You have to tell people, “Hey, my birthday is on Friday, and I want us to go out to dinner together.” Tell your partner birthdays are important to you and strongly suggest your partner talk to the kids about acknowledging it.

**Related Link:** [How to Date when You’re a Single Parent](#)

Before special events or days that matter to you, take the initiative to:

- 1. Be clear about your plans.** Anticipate problems and discuss them with the children.
- 2. Tell them your expectations.** People are not mind readers. Talk with your partner.
- 3. Do not expect a major deal about Mother's Day.** The kids feel conflicted enough as it is. Acknowledging it is important, but celebrating it may be too painful. Yes, of course, it hurts to be ignored or snubbed. Try to understand the positive intent behind it. It is not meant to hurt you. It is about guilt and loyalty to the other biological parent.

The manner in which you approach the role of mother or stepmother and the attitude you put forth will differ from those around you. You must pay particular attention to your actions so as to not alienate yourself from your partner or the children. Getting into a stepfamily can be rewarding and will make for new adventures. As with every new adventure, hold on tight because there will be bumps along the way, but the ride will be spectacular!

*For more information about Hope After Divorce, click [here](#).*

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# Date Idea: Beat of the Music



By Leslie Chavez

Everyone loves music, right? And listening to your favorite tunes has been known to help you relax, boost your mood, and energize you. Nothing beats seeing a singer you love play live, especially when it's with your sweetheart. So take advantage of all the great music events that the next few months have to offer!

With summer comes tons of music festivals all over the country. Find a festival with bands that you both love. From the Electronic Music Festival in Detroit, Michigan, to Soundset, a hip-hop festival in Minnesota, to Rock on the Range in Columbus, Ohio, there is something for every taste. Grab your favorite festival attire – cut-off shorts and cowboy boots are encouraged – and hit the road! Enjoy the whole weekend, basking in the sunshine and swaying your hips to the beat of the music with your lover by your side.



**Related Link:** [Listen to the Music](#)

You might even get the chance to dance where the wild things are. A lot of zoos around the country have summer concert series where a number of great local bands or disc jockeys play at stages within the park after regular zoo hours. As the sun sets, the zoo really comes to life; along with great dance music, delicious food trucks and even bar services fill the gated area. This is a unique opportunity to experience the wildlife of the zoo in a whole new way. Give in to your animal instincts – we promise your man won't mind.

Don't forget about the major arena concerts that happen during the season too. This is a great chance to dress your best and buy those front row seats. Whether it's the Staples Center or Madison Square Garden, you can see some of the biggest names in music and have the night of your life. Raise your glass, let go, and impress him with your perfect pitch as you sing along to Katy Perry's go-girl anthem "Roar."

**Related Link:** [Pub Crawl](#)

If smaller, more intimate shows are more your thing, there are still plenty of options. Tons of bands are playing at your city's restaurants and bars on hot nights. Cool off after a busy day with a refreshing, ice cold beer and foot-stomping live music. You and your man will have so much fun unwinding in the laid-back and easygoing atmosphere. Challenge him to a game of darts or pool when the band takes a break.

Happy summer!

**How will you enjoy music with your love this summer? Tell us in the comments below.**

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# Celebrity Video Interview: Chef Tim Love Talks Summer Traditions and Reality TV Show 'Restaurant Kickstart'



Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#).

May happens to be National Burger Month, and with summertime fast approaching, we could all use a tip or two to avoid the dreaded dry burger during our backyard cookouts. Luckily, chef Tim Love has teamed up with Hellman's to give America a Burgervention just in time for Memorial Day weekend. "The Hellmann's is what's going to keep the burgers juicy while you're grilling them," he reveals in our celebrity video interview. With Love's [foolproof recipe](#), you'll be grilling like a pro in no time!

# Celebrity Video Interview with Chef Tim Love

The reality TV star also talks about his upcoming show *Restaurant Kickstart* (think *Top Chef* meets *Shark Tank*). “You’re investing in people, ultimately,” he explains. “Those people have to have knowledge and skill, but at the end of the day, they also have to be great people.”

**Related Link:** [Color Your Love in Red, White, and Blue](#)

Apart from grilling up juicy burgers, Love says his favorite summer tradition is spending time outdoors with his family and playing some catch. When it comes to [date night](#), the chef and his wife like to keep things simple. “I always prefer to cook at home,” he says. “I don’t spend a whole lot of time there because I’m always working, so if I can sit outside in my backyard with a margarita, I’d choose that every time.”

Check out our celebrity video interview above for more great grilling tips!

*Hungry for more? You can find even more tasty recipes for the summer on Love’s [website](#)!*

*For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).*

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## Cupid’s Weekly Round-Up: Being a Better Parent



By Shannon Seibert

Being a parent is the hardest job out there. There isn't a rule book that gives explicit instructions, and there isn't a how-to guide for every experience your child will go through. It's tough, but it's a blessing. With that thought in mind, we've pulled together five articles from our partners to instill confidence in your parenting skills:

**1. There is no such thing as perfect:** If there were a dictionary for parenting vocabulary, the word "perfect" wouldn't be found on a single page. Don't stress about being the perfect role model who always makes the right decisions and says the right things. One important lesson for children to learn is that it's okay to make mistakes. Rosie Pope embraces this idea and calls herself "a work in progress!" ([CelebrityBabyScoop.com](http://CelebrityBabyScoop.com))

**2. Yelling doesn't always work:** They pull your hair, bring dirt into the house, and rub mysterious substances all over your pristine white walls, and you wonder how you'll get

through the day without a meltdown. Patience is a virtue that kids enjoy to test. Instead of yelling at your children when they begin pushing your buttons, here are three things to try to avoid raising your voice. ([GalTime.com](http://GalTime.com))

**3. A strong relationship is positive encouragement:** Kids learn by example. By having a loving relationship with your significant other, it will stimulate positive life-learning for your children. Avoid having major confrontations in front of your children. In turn, your kids will be more likely to have caring relationships of their own as they grow older. ([YourTango.com](http://YourTango.com))

**4. Teach your kids to love learning:** Education is such a beautiful gift to give to a child. Inspire your kids to want to learn more about the world. Read books aloud, help with their homework, and teach them to ask questions. But don't allow them to rely on you as their only resource. Encourage them to acquire knowledge independently, making the information more meaningful. ([GalTime.com](http://GalTime.com))

**5. A healthy lifestyle can bring the family together:** It can be difficult to get your children to munch on carrots instead of chips. Get creative in the kitchen and get your family moving with group exercise to form lasting bonds with each other. Pull ideas from these tips to work on healthier living. ([YourTango.com](http://YourTango.com))

**Have any tips for being a more confident parent? Tell us in the comments below!**

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# Celebrity Couples Who Have Remarried Each Other



By Sanetra

Richards

Marriage is certainly a test in which many do not succeed at first, but choose to dust themselves off and try again. That is exactly what quite a few celebrity couples decided to do after falling in love, then out of love, and back in it again. After all, time can indeed heal the wounds caused by the limelight, headlines, and pre-existing marital problems, right? Cupid has some celebrity couples who have given the married life another try:

## **Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton**

Elizabeth is notoriously known for her countless marriages throughout the years. However, the disastrous love story of [Elizabeth](#) and Richard Burton is one of the most memorable. The

two met on the set of *Cleopatra* in 1963 and it was what seemed to be love at first sight (let's just say the on-screen kiss between the two was not just for show). Although both were married at the time, they could not resist each other. Their passionate attraction resulted in their first marriage, which began in March 1964. Unfortunately, that came to an end ten years later once news broke that Richard had an affair with a co-star. Not even that could keep the irresistible lovebirds away from each other for too long. The couple decided to give it another go and remarried in August of 1975. Sadly, they were back to their old ways – the bickering and affairs continued. The couple divorced for the final time in July 1976, but remained connected at the heart.

### **Marie Osmond and Steve Craig**

The love was still there nearly 30 years later for [Marie Osmond](#) and Steve Craig. The pair met 18 months before their first wedding. The ceremony happened on June 26, 1982 in Salt Lake City when Osmond was 22 and Craig was 25. After several tries of reconciling and separation, the couple divorced in 1985. Nevertheless, they reunited in matrimony on May 4, 2011 – the date symbolizes the birthday of Marie's late son Michael and mother Olive. Osmond also wore the same Ret Turner designed dress as in her first wedding.

**Related:** [Marie Osmond Re-Wears Wedding Dress to Re-Marry Stephen Craig](#)

### **NeNe and Gregg Leakes**

We watched as NeNe and Gregg's marriage deteriorated right before our eyes on the hit Bravo show "*Real Housewives of Atlanta*." The loving couple divorced in 2011 after 13 years of marriage. Gregg claimed the fame boosted NeNe's ego and financial reasons broke them apart. Whilst NeNe claimed Gregg cheated her financially. Luckily, the star couple worked it out and Gregg proposed to his now-again wife and announced

their engagement in January of 2013. The second wedding ceremony was glamorized and captured for the show *"I Dream of NeNe: The Wedding,"* which premiered on the Bravo network later that fall.

**Related:** [NeNe Leakes Ties the Knot with Gregg Leakes, Again!](#)

How do you know whether to give marriage another try with your ex-partner? Share your thoughts below.

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## How to Handle Being More Successful than Your Partner



By Louisa

Gonzales

Most of us are constantly striving to be the best we can be,



especially when it comes to succeeding in our careers. If you are currently finding more success at your job than your partner, it can be hard for them to deal with emotionally, even though they are probably happy for you at heart. No matter what your mate says, you “bringing home the bacon” can create tension in the relationship, especially if they hold traditional ideals and expect to be the main provider. It’s important to know how to deal with this source of tension so that you can both adjust your ways of thinking. Cupid has some advice:

**1. Consider your partner’s concerns:** It’s important to be able to hear and listen to your mate’s feeling and thoughts on the situation. Whatever concerns they may have about you being the main provider in the relationship, it’s good to be able to let them know it’s okay to voice their opinions. When you do discuss these feelings, make sure it’s in a low-key and comfortable setting. Avoid being defensive or mad when you’re talking about work and success, and remember it’s not a battle about which one of you is better.

**2. Ask your significant other how they hope to become more successful:** To show you care about your partner’s feelings, it’s good to ask them how they hope to improve or better themselves in their career. Listen to their response and offer your help in any form or way you can, whether it’s giving advice, suggesting some tips, or providing feedback. Keep in mind that it’s important to show you are their supporter and not their competition.

**Related:** [What to Do When Your Parents Hate Your Partner](#)

**3. Realize it’s not a contest:** It’s okay to want to advance your career for yourself and for your partner, but you have to realize that it shouldn’t be dependent on how successful your partner is or isn’t. You are both your own people, and as much as you can rely and depend on one another, you can also remain

independent. When it comes your careers, you should both be focusing your energies on bettering it for yourselves and not wasting any time on resenting your honey's achievements. Instead, be proud of them and of yourself as you both try to get ahead at your jobs.

**4. Seek advice or feedback from others:** Every relationship has its up and downs, and many couples experience and go through the same things. That includes situations like one person in a relationship doing better career-wise than the other. It's good to not rule out any form of help, and there's nothing wrong with getting advice from people you trust. Hearing outside perspectives can help you, your other half and your relationship. Taking into consideration an outside party's opinion might help shed some new light on your current predicament.

**Related:** [How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a Relationship](#)

**5. Encourage them to do better:** Help your main squeeze get to the place they want to be at their job by encouraging them. Be their biggest cheerleader. Doing this will help your partner realize how much you care about their future and wish them the very best. Plus, it will help them to extend the same courtesy to you. Your feelings for each other can only grow stronger by constantly showing you believe in each other and are willing and ready to support them in whatever they do.

**What are some other ways to handle being more successful than your partner? Comment below.**

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# Reality TV Star Christina Milian Talks About Her New Partnership and Being a Celebrity Mom



By Brittany

Stubbs

Christina Milian is more than just an actress, television host, singer-songwriter, and pretty face. She is a driven woman, balancing her celebrity family and her relationship and love life along with new projects and career opportunities, like breaking into the electronic hookah and electronic cigarette business.

Milian recently partnered with Platinum E Hookah. "I saw the craze beginning for hookahs and e-cigs," she shares in our celebrity interview. "I always enjoyed hookah lounges, and I thought, 'Why not create our own product that is nicotine

free?’’ Along with coming up with something that is safer than traditional cigarettes, Platinum E Hookah took it one step further and added some delicious flavors to curb your sweet tooth – from strawberry lemonade to blueberry cotton candy to banana cream.

“We also just added our nicotine free e-juice, which has sold out so many times already,” she adds. “We have it in so many great flavors, like cake batter and peanut butter and jelly. It keeps it interesting, fun, and tasty.”

**Related Link:** [Christina Milian is Engaged](#)

Although there has been some negative buzz about electronic hookah and electronic cigarettes encouraging smoking habits to younger crowds with their tasty flavors and celebrity users, Milian makes it clear that Platinum E Hookah strictly enforces that buyers must be 18 and over to purchase the products. She also points out that from what they’ve seen thus far, the flavored vapor business has helped people stop or slow down on smoking actual tobacco and real hookah that contain all the harsh carcinogens that are proven to cause cancer. “The option to smoke vapors is a safer option and does not carry the addiction that products that contain tobacco and nicotine do,” the reality TV star explains.

## **Christina Milian on Being a Celebrity Mom**

While the starlet’s career is important to her, her number one focus is her sweet daughter, Violet Madison. “Violet makes me a better person and makes me want to accomplish more in my life,” the celebrity mom gushes. “Every decision I make is because of and for Violet.”

As a single mother, Milian has learned to work hard each day to make a better life for her and her daughter. She encourages

other single moms looking for a love to “always stay true to who you are and what you want in your life, and the right person will always come along. It’s not about looking for the right one; it’s about making your life great for you and the right one fitting right in.”

**Related Link:** [Girl’s Night Movie Pick of the Week: ‘The Single Moms Club’](#)

## Reality TV Star Opens Up About Relationship and Love Life

The singer took this advice when it came to her own relationship and love life. After separating from Violet’s father, R&B singer/songwriter The-Dream, she refused to give up on finding someone special. As she explains, “If I learned anything, it’s to be strong, believe in yourself, and keep going. A failed relationship hurts, but I believe when things fall apart, they do so better things can come together.”

Luckily for her, she found something better in someone who had been in her life all along. She describes her now-fiance Jas Prince as her best friend. “We have so much in common. At a certain point, it just clicked for us,” she says. The couple got engaged last May. With everything that the two of them have going on, they’ve yet to set a date for their celebrity wedding, but she assures us she is looking forward to getting started on their plans for the big day.

**Related Link:** [Documenting Your Love Story](#)

Speaking of things to look forward to, we can’t wait to learn more about Milian and her celebrity family in her upcoming reality TV show on E!. “I am excited to be working on a docu-series! Fans can expect to see our family, our businesses, and our day-to-day lives.”

*For more information about Milian, check out her*

website, [www.christinamilian.com/](http://www.christinamilian.com/). Follow her on Twitter @ChristinaMilian.

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## Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Date While You're Married



By Shannon

Seibert

You heard right: Date while you're married – your significant other, that is! In this day and age, it's too easy to fall prey to life's whirlwind and neglect your marriage. Keep your love alive by capturing your partner's attention using all of your old tricks with a new flavor. We've gathered these five articles from our partners to help you and your man fall even deeper in love with each other:

**1. Flatter with flirting:** Recharge the passion between you and your honey with something as simple as batting your eyelashes. The silent power of seduction never waivers. Stolen glances, a lingering touch on the arm, or flirty banter work just as well as they did when you first started dating. Your man will feel even more confident about your marriage when you remind him of your passion. (YourTango.com)

**2. Have secrets:** It's not good to have secrets from each other, but secrets you have together will only improve your love. Having parts of your marriage that you don't broadcast to the public will allow you two to bond over something that is yours and yours alone. Take a look at how the limelight impacted the Cassidy family, one of the families featured on Lifetime's *Preachers' Daughters*. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

**3. Be lovers again:** It can be difficult to make "us" time when you have children together. After having kids, a lot of couples struggle with igniting chemistry in the bedroom. It's especially easy for new parents – who have had their world uprooted by a being no bigger than a shoebox – to get distracted by life's miracles and forget about the miracle that is their love. Check out this article for tips on how to keep the fire burning. (YourTango.com)

**4. Don't let distance get in the way:** With new technologies, long-distance dating is even possible for married couples. If you or your man have a job requiring a lot of travel, don't panic! Your hubby can still be involved in your marriage when he's away. The distance can even strengthen your marriage by focusing on the feelings you have for one another when you're separated and when you're together. (GalTime.com)

**5. Learn something new:** Marriage has taken the both of you out of the dating game for a while, but that doesn't mean that you can't engage in a little learning. Reel in your husband's undivided attention with these modern dating tips from a man's perspective and try them out with your love. (GalTime.com)

How do you keep the love alive after marriage? Tell us in the comments below!

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## Romantic Boat Ride



By Leslie Chavez

Test your love on the high seas and hit the water this weekend by going for a **romantic boat ride** with your favorite first mate!

If you're an early riser, experience a beautiful sunrise and see some of the spectacular landmarks at a harbor near you. Being aboard a pristine sailboat and gliding on the open water is a thrilling experience. You'll feel the wind in your hair, the salty air on your face, and your lover's arms wrapped tightly around you as you bob through the waves. There might even be time to go fishing while you're out braving the wild



seas. What a romantic way to spend quality time together, free from the distractions of real life on land! So throw caution to the wind and get aboard your very own love boat.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Wet and Wild on the Water](#)

There are a ton of companies that offer afternoon and sunset romantic boat rides, where you can bring a nice picnic to snack on in case you work up an appetite as you put your sailing skills to good use. And don't forget the chilled bottle of Chardonnay for you and your date to sip as you enjoy the scenery. Check out some of these sailing companies that offer romantic boat rides, like Sushi Sundays or a Hawaiian Grill Sail, both in Santa Cruz.

If you don't happen to be next to an ocean, don't fret – you can still cruise your way to paradise with your beau. Grab an oar and take a ride in a rowboat on a nearby pond. Lounge in your boat on a warm and lazy afternoon and watch the day go by. Imagine him sitting opposite from you, wooing you with verse or song as you gaze deeply into his eyes. Perching a parasol over your shoulder is recommended to fully accomplish the classic love story scene.

If you're lucky, a gondola ride might be an option too. It won't be hard to picture the beautiful canals, aged bridges, quaint cafes, and old balconies of Venice as your singing gondolier guides you and your love on a romantic journey through time and place.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Fishy](#)

A paddle boat is also a great way to get some exercise and spend a romantic evening together. Grab some food to go – something simple like burgers and shakes – and hit the lake. Start out at dusk so you have enough sunlight left to enjoy your dinner and view the sites as you paddle around. Finish up your meal right before the sun sets and watch the city lights

turn on. See their reflection on the water, shining brighter as the sky grows dim for an even more romantic setting.

**Have you ever had a romantic boat ride on the water? Share your story in the comments below!**

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## Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield's Body Language: In Love or Stressed Out?



By [Jared Sais](#)

On April 10th, at the World Premiere of *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* in London, Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield's body language didn't exactly scream love – proving that even Hollywood's cutest couple can feel the strain of a long work day. The two

met while filming *The Amazing Spider-Man* in 2010, and since then, they have become one of the most buzzed about celebrity couples. They've been known to gush about each other during interviews, but the lovebirds were strictly business on the red carpet.

**Photo 1 (from left to right above):** In this photo, Stone and Garfield are facing each other and looking deeply into each other's eyes. Her eyes are shut more tightly, and her dimples are more defined and closer together. These signs indicate that she is feeling playful and carefree as opposed to a forced, red carpet smile. His expression mirrors her affection because it is lighter and more romantic in nature.

Although Stone's eyes and dimples say playful, her and Garfield's upper bodies are telling a different story. Her hand touching her dress is a self-touch gesture, which is usually used to comfort oneself in high stress situations. This touch can come in the form of simply rubbing or playing with one's own clothing or body parts. In this case, we see the actress use her dress as the non-verbal cue that she's stressed out. This snapshot indicates that, while they may be absolutely in love with each other away from the cameras, at this moment, their affection seems more like a strategically posed photo.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples: What True Love Looks Like](#)

The final and most useful cue to identifying Stone and Garfield's true emotions is by looking at their feet. Your feet point to the direction you want to go. If you're interested in someone, your feet will be pointed in their direction; if not, then your feet will be pointed away. Stone's feet are pointed straight in front of her, not toward her beau. Similarly, his feet are also pointing away from Stone. But I think this speaks more for the situation than it does the state of their relationship. Their bodies and faces

may be in photo shoot mode, but their feet are ready to get inside, away from the cameras.

**Photo 2:** Here, their lack of enthusiasm is more evident. Stone is giving a standard glamour photo smirk. Her smile isn't genuine because it's missing ocular muscle movement, also known as crow's feet or smile lines. When people truly smile, their eyes and mouth both move to form a distinct facial expression. Because Stone and Garfield are smiling only with their mouths, this means that they are smiling purely for the cameras.

Stone has her head tilted away from Garfield, which is a bit odd because couples usually tend to gravitate towards one another. If you covered up either Stone or Garfield in the photo, it would seem like they were alone on the red carpet. When a couple is being photographed together, they usually pose as one unit, which isn't what I see here. However, this could be the 30th photo taken of them, and they most likely just want to mix it up when it comes to posing.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples Who Met on Set](#)

As we saw in photo 1, Stone is still rubbing her dress with her hand, and Garfield continues to have his hand in his pocket. Both gestures indicate that they are trying to bring down their stress levels.

The actor is also holding his girlfriend pretty tightly. Combined with his "bad boy" facial expression, this body language tells me that he is establishing his dominance. Your state of mind can trigger your entire body to follow suit. In this case, he is portraying high confidence and a rebel persona, which is leaking into his body language and how he holds the actress in his arms.

Despite the visible signs of stress, how do I know that Stone and Garfield are still in love? In both photos, we can see that they're mirroring each other's body language, which is a

strong indicator of affection. From their gestures of distressing to the direction of their upper bodies and feet, the similarities in their poses show that these two are like-minded and compatible. Stone-Garfield fans can breathe a sigh of relief!

*[Jared Sais](#) is co-author of the website [The Non-Verbal Game](#), where you can find free downloadable content. He is an expert in non-verbal communication, who specializes in body language, micro-expressions and lie deception as they relate to life and love.*

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## **‘He Texted’ Authors, Lisa Winning and Carrie Henderson McDermott, Discuss Dating in the Digital Age**





Interview by [Lori](#)

[Bizzoco](#). Written by Maria Darbenzio.

Lisa Winning and Carrie Henderson McDermott, founders of HeTexted.com, are two women with different relationship statuses, but they both know the difficulties that come along with dating in the age of technology. In their new book, *He Texted: The Ultimate Guide to Decoding Guys*, they help women through various situations and suggest how to handle guy problems. With how rapidly digital media continues to expand, this guide is a must-have for every girl's bookshelf.

**What prompted you to create the site? Did you just want to help women?**

**L:** That's exactly what it was. There was nothing out there, and at the same time, my girlfriends who were asking these questions were really clever. They were journalists; they worked in finance; and they had these really interesting, steady careers. Yet they would have a dating question and absolutely freak out over it. It just seemed like the most obvious thing in the world to create somewhere to go and ask questions like "How do I get a second date?" or "Why haven't I heard back from him yet?"

**Related Link:** [Dating Apps to Manage Your Love Life](#)

I remember when texting first came out, and there would be these crazy conversations with my girlfriends about what a certain text meant, how to interpret what a guy said, and what to say back to him. I can't believe it's still like that today – I figured this new generation of millennials would have texting all figured out by now.

L: There's still so much ambiguity. When something isn't face-to-face, there are so many layers and so many different ways you can take it. And now things are even trickier with Facebook and whether you should add him as a friend or not, which is something we address in our book. It's just an absolute minefield. I think that's why so many people find dating quite confusing. It's no longer just seeing a guy; it's also social media and whether you should be following him on Twitter, etc.

C: Every chapter takes a different situation where you're not face-to-face with a guy and talks about how to handle it.

**Now, let's talk about a few specific instances. First, we've all met that guy who refuses to call and only texts. What's the best way to handle someone like that? Do you think a relationship can be built on texting alone?**

L: I think that texting is increasingly how everyone's interacting. We get inquiries all of the time like, "This guy's been texting me for three months now, and I still haven't seen him" or "I met this guy on Tindr, and we're chatting every day, but he hasn't set up a date yet." At the end of the day, you have to remember that *nothing* replaces face-to-face interactions. Obviously, spending time with someone is the basis of any sort of meaningful relationship. So if he's not calling you and you're not seeing him, then it's just a distraction. It's a form of entertainment rather than a real relationship.

**Say a guy goes out with his buddies and tends to drunk text**

## **his ex a lot. Is this a red flag for a relationship?**

**C:** We get this question a lot, and it's a completely common situation. At the same time, if he gets drunk and the first thing he thinks to do is text his ex-girlfriend, that means absolutely nothing good for you. You don't want to be in a relationship with someone who, when all his guards are down, is thinking of his ex instead of you. You want to run from that situation because you want to be with a guy who only thinks of you and wants to be with you always. You never want his ex-girlfriend in the back of his mind; that never ends well.

We get a lot of ex-girlfriend questions too. Social media makes it easier to leave a trail. So you go to the Facebook page of your new boyfriend; you click his profile pictures; and his old ones are with his ex-girlfriend. And you're like, "Oh, I don't like that." Or you see he's tagged in a picture, and you click on her name on Facebook to see what her profile looks like. It's human nature.

**Related Link:** [Lori Bizzoco Discusses Hollywood Love Lessons at Single in Stiletto Event](#)

**Lastly, could each of you share your top tip for dating in the digital age?**

**L:** More than anything else, you still need to go with your gut instinct. I think we all spend too much time thinking about "Should I text him?" or "He Facebooked me two days ago. How long should I wait before responding?" It's good to keep those things in mind, but nothing replaces that moment when you first meet someone or when you first do something really meaningful together. You recognize that the relationship has significance. So I think you need to go with that feeling.

**C:** The biggest thing to me is open communication. There are so many different ways to talk now, and people aren't always being honest. Direct communication and really sharing your



true feelings instead of what you *think* you need to feel is most important.

*Check out HeTexted.com for more digital dating insights and to order a copy of the book!*

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## Mother's Day Gift Ideas for First-Time Moms



By Louisa

Gonzales

May 11th is Mother's Day, the time to give a special and thoughtful gift to mom, and for first-time moms, the holiday is an extra special treat. If you know someone who is a new mom, whether she is your partner, friend, or sibling, you know how monumental this occasion is. New mothers go through a

variety of emotions and experiences from relief to worry, joy to stress, tiredness to elation – all within the first year of being a mother. It's important to show her how loved and cared for she is, and the right gift can go a long way.

However, finding a present that will show the mother how amazing, unique, appreciated, and special she is can be a challenge. That's a lot to pack into one gift! Don't stress though. The perfect idea is out there, and you will find it. To help in your search, here are five fun Mother's Day gift ideas that will bring a smile of joy to any first-time mom's face:

**1. Spa date:** Being a mother is an amazing experience, but it's also a lot of hard work. This holiday, pamper the first-time mom by taking her on a weekend spa getaway. It's one of the best gifts you can give. If you're getting this gift for your main squeeze, go together and indulge in a couples massages and other romantic activities. If you're getting it for your daughter, friend, or sibling, she'll appreciate a day of reviving facial masks, mud baths, and other spa treatments. The brand new mother deserves a day of relaxation, a break, and a reminder that all of her hard work is appreciated.

**Related Link:** [Inexpensive Ways to Say 'I Love You'](#)

**2. Beauty products:** These are always cool picks for Mother's Day because they're something every woman loves. Figure out what beauty products she has been eyeing or what her favorite items are, whether it's her go-to moisturizer, a colorful makeup set, or fun hair accessories. There's no way you can go wrong with bringing a little beauty into the mother's life.

**3. Presents for both the mom and the baby:** There's a lot of things that first-time moms need for their baby. New moms spend an enormous amount of time with their infant, so getting a gift for the baby will be a gift to them too. You can get the practical and necessary items, such as pacifiers, extra

bottles, and, of course, clothes (you can never have too many!). If you are looking to splurge, there's always a rocking chair, which every new mom will appreciate when they are trying to rock their baby to sleep. You can also get a stylish diaper bag for all of the baby's must-haves.

**4. Jewelry:** You know what they say: Diamonds are a girl's best friend. That motto really extends to all jewelry. Yes, it may be cliché, but a new necklace or bracelet is the perfect gift to show your love for the first-time mom. Jewelry is beautiful and will look ravishing, breathtaking, and stunning. Plus, there's so many unique options – it doesn't matter what it is; she'll love it just because it's coming from you!

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Parents Who Splurge on Their Kids](#)

**5. Sweet treats and flowers:** This is the number one go-to gift when all else fails. No matter what anyone says, some good chocolate and a nice bouquet of flowers can make her day! To make this somewhat simple gift mean much more, create something unique and special to her tastes. You can build a bouquet of her favorite flowers or pick buds that mean something special (every flower has a different meaning, you know). Along with the bouquet, bake her favorite cake or pick up some yummy cupcakes. The mom will instantly be reminded of just how well you know her.

**What's your best gift idea for first-time moms? Tell us in the comments below!**

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## **Bravo Reality TV Star Tabatha**

# Coffey Says It's Important to "Connect and Continue to Get to Know Your Partner"



By Brittany Stubbs

Celebrity hairstylist Tabatha Coffey is more than just an expert on bouncy curls and shiny locks. Known for her business expertise and tough-love approach while helping restore struggling salons on Bravo's reality TV show *Tabatha Takes Over*, it's no wonder the questions from viewers inspired the star to put her profitable advice on paper. In her new book *Own It! Be the Boss of Your Life – Home and in the Workplace*, she provides readers with the tools to be successful not only in their professional lives but in their personal lives as well.

# Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Reality TV Star

“Living a successful and well-balanced life is, to me, what it’s all about,” she shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. With so many people today struggling with work-life balance, Coffey believes her book will empower readers of all kinds, whether they’re looking to move up in a current career, they’re fresh out of college, or they’re stay-at-home mothers. More than just a catchy title, she shows readers how to “own it,” teaching them how to take control and responsibility for their own lives.

**Related Link:** [Molly Sims Talks New Hair Color & Favorite Date Night Looks](#)

While her blunt honesty has often been perceived as bitchiness, she says that “it’s always in the name of helping someone.” Whether giving a new haircut to make a woman feel beautiful or guiding a failing business owner towards a fresh start, the author has always been passionate and motivated by any activity that can empower people.

But empowering people sometimes requires a harsh reality check. “It’s just my tough love that comes from a place of wanting people to move forward,” she admits. “I truly understand when people get upset by some of the things I say because change is hard. Sometimes, people who ask for my help don’t really want to hear the truth, but they need to hear it in order to make changes and become successful.”

Speaking of asking for help, we couldn’t help but pick the hairstylist’s brain for a few summer hair tips. After all, it is her expertise! When it comes to managing hair in the hot and humid months to come, “it’s all about using the right product to protect your hair in the sun, especially if you have color in your hair. There are many products out there

that will help minimize the fading you're going to get from the sun." While it might seem like your hair is constantly in the water between pool parties and trips to the beach, she encourages you to rehydrate your hair with a great conditioner or treatment too.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Stylist Raphael Reboh Says Jennifer Lopez Has the Best Hair in Hollywood](#)

One thing Coffey loves about summer is embracing a more casual look. Whether you're letting your hair air-dry, rocking a messy ponytail, or just slicking back short hair, try using a leave-in conditioner to get a nice treatment in your hair and a smooth result without a bunch of mousse or gel. The reality TV star assures us that this hair trend will be spotted in Hollywood as well. "We'll definitely see waves, especially more casual, beachy waves that allow movement and more of a natural texture to the hair as opposed to being so formal and so done with a curling iron."

Another great, summer go-to style that she predicts celebrities will be wearing is ponytails. Whether high or low, with or without a part, "ponytails are a great summer trend and can look incredibly chic, even if you're wearing an evening gown."

## **Tabatha Coffey Shares Her Best Dating Advice**

Although hair and business have been her main focus, Coffey stresses the importance of still making time for a relationship and love life. Being with the same partner for over a decade, she has learned that it's important to avoid routines. "The longer you've been in a relationship with someone, the easier it is to get in the habit of just doing your duties and going about your daily routine side-by-side," she explains of her best [dating advice](#). "I think it's

important to make an effort to go to the movies or go out to dinner and spend time connecting and continuing to get to know your significant other better instead of just the daily updates that we all seem to do.”

**Related Link:** [Tabatha Coffey Shares Life, Relationship, and Hair Tips](#)

While the Australian native believes in scheduling time for your partner, she encourages you to not forget about yourself too. “It’s often easier to just focus on work or on putting other people first, but you can’t put yourself on the back burner.” Whether it’s five minutes of meditating a day or just enjoying a cup of tea, you need to take time to reenergize and do something nice for yourself.

Still, she knows with today’s constant connection to our phones and tablets that this is often easier said than done. You have to work to find out what works best for you. For Coffey, one of her activities of choice is playing Candy Crush. “I’m obsessed,” she says with a laugh – but sometimes, that’s all she needs.

*To purchase Coffey’s book Own It!, check it out on Amazon. You can keep up with the hairstylist on Twitter @tabathacoffey.*

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## 5 Celebrity Women Who Proposed to Their Partners





By April

Littleton

Some women get tired of waiting around for their man to make the first move – female celebrities are no different. Why should they wait around for something they want when they can just go after it themselves? Cupid found five celebrity women who decided to take charge of their relationships and put a ring on it:

**1. Jennifer Hudson:** The former *American Idol* star met professional wrestler David Otunga after her separation from longtime boyfriend James Payton. She proposed to Otunga in September 2008. The couple have one son, David Daniel Otunga, Jr., born Aug. 10, 2009.

**2. Pink:** The *Just Give Me a Reason* singer met motorcross singer Carey Hart at the 2001 X Games in Philadelphia. After a brief separation, Pink proposed to Hart during a Mammoth Lakes motorcross race in June 2005. She wrote, “Will You Marry Me? I’m serious!” on a sign. The lovebirds married in Costa Rica Jan. 7, 2006. The singer gave birth to their first child, Willow Sage Hart June 2, 2011.

**Related:** [Celebrity Parents Who Splurge On Their Kids](#)



**3. Halle Berry:** Berry proposed to former love David Justice during the beginnings of her career. She married the baseball player after midnight Jan. 1, 1993. They separated in February 1996. The couple were officially divorced June 24, 1997. The actress moved on to marry Eric Benet from January 2001 to January 2005. Currently, she's married to actor Olivier Martinez, whom she met while filming *Dark Tide*. The couple have one child, son Maceo, born Oct. 5, 2013. Berry also has a daughter with former flame and model Gabriel Aubry.

**Related:** [5 Celebrity Couples Who Married Young](#)

**4. Britney Spears:** The *I Wanna Go* singer proposed to ex-husband Kevin Federline. They were engaged three months after meeting each other in July 2004. At the time, Federline's ex, Shar Jackson was pregnant with his second child. The lovebirds married Sept. 18, 2004. However, their marriage wasn't official until three weeks later due to legal issues. Their relationship was documented on the reality TV show, *Britney & Kevin: Chaotic*. The couple had their first child, Sean Preston Federline, in September 2005. A year later, Jayden James Federline was born. Spears filed for divorce in November 2006, citing irreconcilable differences.

**5. Kristen Bell:** Bell began dating actor Dax Shepard in late 2007. They became engaged in January 2010, but decided to postpone wedding plans until California legalized same-sex marriages. After the legislation passed June 26, 2013, the actress proposed to her longtime love via Twitter. The couple married at the Beverly Hills County Clerk's Office Oct. 17, 2013. They have a daughter, Lincoln Bell Shepard, born March 2013.

**What other celebrity women proposed to their partners? Comment below.**

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# 'RH00C' Reality TV Newbie Lizzie Rovsek on How the Show Helped Her Celebrity Marriage: "You've Got to Keep the Passion and the Fire Alive"



By Brittany Stubbs

Our favorite Bravo ladies are back in the *Real Housewives of Orange County*. You may have thought you met all the bombshells this season, but joining the reality TV cast on tonight's

episode is the much-anticipated wife, mother, and former pageant star Lizzie Rovsek. As any *Housewives* fan knows, with new women, we can expect new drama. And Rovsek makes it clear her debut will be no exception to the rule.

**Related Link:** [‘RH0A’ Star Phaedra Parks Talks New Book and Marriage: “Remember What Made You Fall in Love”](#)

## **Celebrity Interview with *RH00C* Reality TV Star**

Not only does she fall down at her first filmed party, but she also has to defend herself from the very beginning. “Vicki and I definitely had a rocky start,” the newly-minted reality TV star admits. “I didn’t feel welcomed by her and felt like I was a burden because she doesn’t like new people. I don’t think she likes what I do for a living or even my name.”

As the only veteran OC housewife still remaining from the first season, Vicki Gunvalson has had issues with newbies in the past. But between Rovsek and Shannon Beador, the other rookie housewife joining the cast this season, Rovsek definitely believes she was in the firing line the most. While she was judged and picked on from the very beginning, Beador seems to have had an easier welcoming from the legendary veteran. “It might be because Shannon and Vicki have a lot more in common than Vicki and I do. They’re the same age, and they’ve been married for a long time.”

Despite her roller coaster of drama with Gunvalson, she still manages to make friends this season. “I was warned a little bit and told to be careful of Tamra, but she was actually very nice when I met her,” she candidly shares in our celebrity interview. “She’s very fun, and we have that in common.”

**Related Link:** [Relationship Taglines for the Ladies of ‘The Real Housewives of New York’](#)

Besides Tamra Judge (formerly Tamra Barney), the mother of two also forms alliances with fellow brunette Heather Dubrow. “She is so classy, and I truly look up to her. Throughout the season, Heather is someone I find myself going to for advice, and she’s been my friend basically through the whole thing.”

With beauty queen and model on her resume, it’s no surprise people have a lot of misconceptions when it comes to Rovsek’s looks, brains, and personality. “There was an article that I had a nose job, but I’ve never had plastic surgery on my face,” she explains. Valedictorian in high school and graduating college Cum Laude, the housewife assures us that she has much more to offer than just her looks. “I’m actually a big science geek,” she says with a laugh. “I’m definitely not just a bimbo or pretty face.”

Despite some false judgements, she faces a lot of the same challenges as other working mothers. Between taking care of two young boys and a husband who loves home cooked meals and running a swimwear company, she’s just trying to juggle it all. On top of that, she still wants more children. “We’re definitely talking about having another baby and thinking that will happen by the end of this year or beginning of next year,” the celebrity mom says, making it clear that viewers can expect to see some of these discussions on the show.

**Related Link:** [Gary and Cassie Chapman from ‘Nashville Wives’ Talk Marriage and Adoption](#)

## **Lizzie Rovsek Talks About Her Celebrity Marriage**

While the *Housewives* franchise has shown the destruction of several [celebrity marriages](#) in the past, especially in the OC, this pageant queen feels like doing the show with her husband Christian has actually brought them closer. “This experience has made us stronger and made us take a closer look at our

relationship and love life. Marriage is hard work! You've got to keep the passion and the fire alive, and it's not always easy. We're working at it all the time."

For other parents of young children struggling to fit in romance, Rovsek encourages setting aside time to be alone together. "Go on a trip, even if it's just a two-day drive somewhere. You need to spend time alone – away from your kids, away from your work – and really make time for each other."

Besides strengthening her celebrity marriage and getting closer to her husband, she also hopes her appearance on the show will inspire viewers who look up to her. "I hope they get to see my loving nature, and I hope they learn that it's okay to make mistakes. Sometimes, you learn the most valuable lessons by messing up," she shares. "Life is a gift, and we're all in this together."

*To learn more about Rovsek and the Real Housewives of Orange County, tune into Bravo every Monday at 9/8c. You can keep up with Rovsek on Twitter @LizzieRovsek.*

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## Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Surviving a Breakup





By Shannon

Seibert

We all know that breakups are painful. Whether you're the one breaking someone's heart or the one being dumped, the situation is inevitably unpleasant. Instead of vacationing on the island of Splitsville surrounded by an emotion ocean, keep your heartbreak clean and classy. Here are five articles from our partners to help you survive the breakup blues:

**1. Don't be "that girl":** As tough as it may be to face your partner, indirect breakups are never the answer. If you are the one breaking it off, it's best to be respectable and ladylike. Check out these people who made the mistake of using social media to do their dirty work. (YourTango.com)

**2. If he cuts you off, cut him out:** There is nothing worse than going on Facebook and seeing your ex with new arm candy after a recent split. To help the moving on process, clean up your social media. Take down your old pictures, unfriend or unfollow him, and stop checking in on him every day. Lucky for you, in this day and age, there's an app for that. (YourTango.com)

**3. Keep yourself busy:** Wallowing in unreciprocated emotions isn't a positive way of moving forward. Try taking on new tasks or a new hobby. For example, yoga is a great way to

cleanse a broken heart while getting into better shape. Take a look at this article, which shows that even Ivanka Trump's young daughter Arabella can do it. (CelebrityBabyScoop.com)

**4. Don't text him:** Texting is an easy way to get yourself into trouble. If you ever wonder if you should reach out to him after you say your goodbyes, the answer is always no. Use this texting guide to avoid uncomfortable situations. (GalTime.com)

**5. Ex is for example:** Use this breakup as a learning opportunity for yourself and figure out what you *don't* want in a relationship. Stop dating the wrong guys and find someone who you see in your future. (GalTime.com)

**What have you done to survive a tough breakup? Tell us in the comments below!**

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**What have you done to survive a tough breakup? Tell us in the comments below!**

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## **Mexican Cooking Classes: Spice Up Date Night**





By Leslie Chavez

Spice up the kitchen with your “amor” this Cinco de Mayo by adding Mexican Cooking Classes do your date menu! Discover how to create classic Mexican dishes that are fresh and fiery. Throw in some margaritas, and you’ll have all the ingredients you need for the perfect fiesta.

For starters, try checking out some local Mexican restaurants and see if they are offering special cooking classes with their executive chef for the holiday. Or you might find a special event through local flyers and town websites where you can discover and compare some of the best courses out there. Maybe you want your class to look something like this: First, snack on some homemade guacamole and chips. Maybe you can whip up some pozole verde and beef and pumpkin empanadas for the main course. For dessert, take a shot at baking tres leches cake.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Wine and Dine](#)

Once you finish the Mexican cooking class, you can have your own celebration at home and show off your new skills. Cooking dinner for a date is a great way to engage with each other in an intimate way while working towards a common goal. You will be able to learn about each other’s strengths, practice

communicating, and have fun. Plus, you'll make new memories because of the experience and discover how to better operate as a team.

Ask him about his week as you chop chilies together, or put your hand over his as he stirs the enchilada sauce. Turn up the mariachi music – try listening to greats like Vincente Fernandez or Luis Miguel – as you prepare your meal and dance a little salsa around the stove. Enjoy the process of creating a meal as a couple and sip on tequila sunrises as you go. Cooking is a multi-sensory experience, so embrace the sight, smell, touch and feel of the food...and each other. *Muy Caliente!*

**Related Link:** [Celebrate Cinco De Mayo with Your Mate](#)

Remember it's all about having fun and connecting with your lover, your cooking dinner for a date, not a contest, so be careful about getting too competitive or ambitious with your partner. After all, the key ingredient in any dish is love.

**How do you and your love plan to celebrate Cinco de Mayo? Tell us in the comments below!**

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**Date Idea: Climb Every Mountain**





By Amanda Boyer

You and your partner are tired of the typical dinner-and-a-movie and need a new [date idea](#). You want to do something that will get your feet moving and your heart rate up. To integrate some exercise into your normal routine, follow this relationship advice and plan a rock climbing date! You can check out an indoor gym if it's still chilly where you live or head outside if the weather has warmed up enough.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples That Are Always On the Go](#)

## Go Rock Climbing on This Weekend Date Idea

To find a good spot close to home for this weekend date idea, check out websites like [RockandIce.com](#), and [IndoorClimbing.com](#). Rock and Ice even has articles on *how* to rock climb, so if one of you is nervous about going or has never tried the sport before, read up for some helpful tips. Be sure to find out what gear is required and purchase or rent shoes, clothes, and ropes as needed.

Once the day arrives, don't let your nerves get the best of you! Start by just taking a few steps up the mountain or wall so you get a sense of where the best rocks are and what kind

of foot and hand holds you want to use. This warm-up will have you laughing and joking around with each other as you both struggle to learn something new. Make sure you feel comfortable before you challenge each other and step it up to the next level.

Once you both are ready to go, it's time to race! To turn this rock climbing date idea into a contest, you can climb up the mountain three times; whoever gets to the top first two times in a row can get bragging rights for the night. To raise the stakes, make a bet: The loser has to buy dinner afterwards. The pressure's on!

**Related Link:** [Take a Charity Walk](#)

Whether it's making fun of your significant other for slipping or getting to see your cutie compete against you, you're sure to have a fun time. After a few hours of climbing, betting, and having fun with your honey, you'll be tired and ready for a low-key evening. You and your partner will form a stronger bond over the challenges faced on the rock climbing wall and have new memories to bring to your relationship and love.

**Have you ever gone on a rock climbing date? Share your experience below!**

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# **Should You Give Your Ex Another Chance?**



By April

Littleton

You and your ex broke things off pretty quickly, and now you're thinking about giving the romance a second try. Maybe the two of you are still in love, or perhaps you're finally on your way to being on friendly terms with your former flame. Either way, you might want to ask yourself some questions before you officially decide to rekindle the spark. Cupid has some advice:

**1. The breakup:** What caused you and your ex to split up in the first place? Did he/she cheat? Did you cheat? What was the ultimate deal breaker in your relationship, and how do you know for sure things will work out for the better the second time around? Remember, your ex is just that for a reason. Whatever problems the two of you had in the beginning will eventually bubble up to the surface. The issues won't magically disappear. If you expect your romance to flourish this time, be prepared to put in the work to make it happen.

**2. Friends and family:** What do your friends and family think

about your former lover? Do they think you're better off without him/her, or do they think the two of you might be able to work out your problems? Listen to the advice your loved ones give you. They know you better than you know yourself. They'll be able to clue you in on what exactly you need in your life right now – and it might not be your ex.

**Related:** [How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a Relationship](#)

**3. Your feelings:** Once you stop and think about it, you might realize you don't really want your ex back. Are you afraid of being on your own? If you were with your partner for awhile before splitting up, being single again could be a scary situation. You don't remember what it's like to date someone new. How do you even know when you're ready to meet another special someone? Take it a day at a time. You don't need to go back to someone who doesn't know how to treat you right. Eventually, you'll find someone who appreciates all that you are, but first, you have to love yourself.

**4. What will change:** How certain are you that things will change the second time around? Your ex was still the same person he/she was when you broke up. A drastic change in their personality and/or behavior is highly unlikely – especially if they believe they played no part in the breakup. You can't go back to a relationship that can't be fixed, and you shouldn't want to risk being the person who is responsible for picking up all the broken pieces of a lackluster romance.

**Related:** [Signs Your Crush Is Into You](#)

**5. The good versus the bad:** You might be able to salvage the relationship if the good outweighs the bad. Think about all the pros and cons to getting back together with your former significant other. Is the outcome worth it?

**Did you give your ex another chance? Share your experience below.**

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# Celebrity Interview: Chef Roblé Talks Date Nights and Says Creating New Fragrance Was “A Lot Like Cooking”



By Maria

Darbenzio

Chef Roblé Ali, best known for Bravo's [reality TV](#) documentary series *Chef Roblé & Co*, is continuing to make his mark on the food industry. Over the years, thanks to his passionate dedication to cooking, he has prepared meals for many A-list stars, started a successful catering company, and has now ventured into the realm of beauty. With his new fragrance *Clique by Roblé*, he's expanding his brand beyond the foodies.



# Celebrity Interview with Chef Roblé

Although developing a perfume may seem like a strange departure for a chef, his fragrance, which he created with master perfumer Frank Voelkl, includes scents of ingredients from his recipes. “When you smell the perfume, you first get a sparkling citrus top note, and that’s based on one of my signature cocktails that includes blood orange, lime, and tequila. It’s called the Chupacabra,” he explains in our celebrity interview. “Once it settles in, there’s a rich dessert note there, and that’s another one of my recipes called the French Toast Crunch. It’s dessert French toast that’s crusted in cornflakes, and it has drizzled honey and hot Nutella and chocolate dusted with some powdered sugar. It’s cooked in brown butter, so it’s really rich and multidimensional.”

**Related Link:** [Giveaway: Smell Great with Clique by Roblé](#)

Much like filming a reality show or cooking in the kitchen, creating a fragrance takes a lot of time and dedication. It took over a year of extensive testing to narrow it down to just one scent. To test the final two options, he gathered a group of women – and a few men too – to share which one they liked best. “The other one is really good too, so who knows? We might do something with that one day. Right now, we’re just focusing on rolling out Clique by Roblé,” he shares. “I just want to get it in front of people. It will sell itself. It’s something I’m really proud of, and we got really good feedback.”

## Bravo Reality TV Star Shares Dating Advice

Chef Roblé imagines this scent being something for everyone, whether it’s being worn for a day in the office or a date

night at home. When it comes to wowing your special someone with a home-cooked meal, he suggests finding out what he or she likes. “I wouldn’t do a whole bunch of guessing. You can put all this energy into something you think is nice, but what if that person doesn’t like red meat? Or maybe they’re allergic to shellfish, and you just made a lobster bisque,” he explains of his dating advice.

**Related Link:** [‘Food Network’ Host Claire Robinson Says, “Food Is the Key to Passion”](#)

As for his own date nights, the “single as a pringle” chef states that he would rather just go to a restaurant. This approach allows him to focus completely on his date and their conversation instead of running around and cooking during the evening. He may be single at the moment, but he’s not one to look for a relationship and love. “If you look, it doesn’t come. Whatever happens, happens,” he admits. Still, he knows what he wants in a partner: He says his perfect woman is “good looking, has good morals, and smells delicious.”

Being a celebrity chef means meeting a lot of people, both famous and not, during his travels. Over the span of his career, Chef Roblé has prepared his signature dishes for the likes of Michael Jackson and his crew, Britney Spears, and President Obama. Plus, he’s had the opportunity to cook alongside Mario Batali on *The Chew*. “He’s my all-around favorite chef out there, and I got to work with him,” he excitedly reveals in our celebrity interview. “That was definitely a memorable and great experience for me.”

**Related Link:** [Mario Batali Shares His Tips for Cooking at Home on Date Night](#)

So what’s next for the former reality TV star? He’s in the process of coming up with concept and location ideas for restaurants, one on the West Coast and another one on the East Coast. They’re still in the development stage at the moment,

but be on the lookout for more news over the next couple of months.

Besides the restaurants, he's also in the process of developing a line of wines – perfect for your next date night. There may even be some more television time in his future, but for now, he says he's too busy traveling to commit to filming. We'll all have to stay tuned to see what the chef does next!

*To stay up to date with Chef Roblé's projects, follow him on Twitter @ChefRoble and [www.facebook.com/ChefRoble/](http://www.facebook.com/ChefRoble/). Don't forget to enter our fragrance giveaway!*

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## Will You Witness 'The Walk of Shame'?



By

April

Littleton

Directed by Steven Bill, *The Walk of Shame* tells the tale of a reporter whose one-night stand with a stranger leaves her stranded the next morning. Unable to find her phone, ID or car, she must think fast in order to make it in time for the most important interview of her life.

### **Should you see it:**

If you're into comedies, *The Walk of Shame* will be a refreshing movie to see. Elizabeth Banks and James Marsden star in the lead roles, so expect to be entertained.

### **Who to take:**

This rom-com will be great to see with just about anyone. Take a group of friends, or save this film for a special date night. If you're flying solo over the weekend, treat yourself to a dinner and a movie.

### **How do you know when your hookup is turning into something more serious?**

#### **Cupid's Advice:**

Flings can be fun to have every now and then, but sometimes the person you hook up with may end up being someone you can truly have a relationship with. How do you know when lust is turning into love? Cupid is here to help:

**1. Friends:** If your friends have met the person you're fooling around with, that may be a sign your hookup is actually turning into a relationship. You're no longer keeping your crush hidden behind closed doors, and he/she is actually interested in getting to know you and more about your life outside of the bedroom.

**Related:** [Find Out Who 'The Other Woman' Is in Theaters April](#)

**2. Communicate:** The two of you clearly have chemistry, but you might be turning your fling into a little something more if you're having meaningful discussions with each other. Does your hookup ask about your day? Do you talk about important matters with each other? If you do, you're on the right track to starting a real romance.

**Related:** [Signs Your Crush Is Into You](#)

**3. Dates:** Lets face it, flings don't normally result in a date. If the two of you are going out together (day or night), you have something more serious going on. If you're ready for a relationship, continue on the path you're on. If not, slow down and keep things more casual.

**How did you know when your hookup was turning into something more serious? Share your experience below.**

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## 'DWTS' Pro Tony Dovolani on His Celebrity Marriage: "My Wife is My Queen"





Interview by

[Whitney Johnson](#). Written by Maria Darbenzio and Liz Kim.

Tony Dovolani has come a long way from the three-year-old learning to folk dance in Prishtina, Kosova. Early on, Dovolani's father discovered that his son had a knack for both dance and music. Dovolani eventually became a professional ballroom dancer and has been on ABC's *Dancing With the Stars* for a whopping 17 seasons now.

Before his career ever took off, Dovolani knew that dancing had its perks. "As I got older, I realized that the dancers got all the girls," he says with a laugh. After coming to the United States as a teenager, he was introduced to the Fred Astaire Dance Academy. "After the first step I took into the studio, I knew right away that was going to be the rest of my life."

As time progressed, he choreographed *Shall We Dance* with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere and then landed a spot on season two of *DWTS*, where he was paired with Stacy Keibler. Since then, he has developed The Ballroom Dancing Channel with fellow pros Maksim Chmerkovskiy and Elena Grinenko, created the Superstars of the Ballroom Dance Camp, and won the coveted mirror ball trophy with Melissa Rycroft during the All-Stars season of *DWTS*.

Fast forwarding to season 18 of the popular ABC reality show, *Dovolani* is currently paired with NeNe Leakes, one of the sassy stars of *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Although he mentions their great chemistry, they did have a minor issue after switching partners for a week. “She’s great. I mean, we had one little tiff that everybody saw. Other than that, it’s really been a lot of fun,” he candidly shares. “She’s hilarious. She has so much character. She shows up ready to work, which is good.”

**Related Link:** [‘DWTS’ Contestant Candace Cameron Bure Says “Dance Parties” Have Always Been Her Favorite Family Activity!](#)

As viewers saw on last week’s episode, the twosome used that bump in the road to strengthen their partnership and ultimately wow the judges with their salsa. “What you guys didn’t see is that routine came about from us working with each other. If we had an attitude the whole week, it wouldn’t have happened.”

When it comes to the rest of the season, the dancing pro has no worries about Leakes and her abilities on the dancer floor. “I think she’s on a good track. We’re going to keep pushing her every single week. I feel like she’s the fun one in the show, and we want to keep entertaining our fans all the way to the end.” Of tonight’s tango, he says, “I want it to be passionate, hateful, sultry, sexy, and vulgar. I want it to be everything!”

Dovolani works hard both on and off the dance floor, making sure that his wife Lina and their three young children are always his number one priority. “My wife is my queen. I wouldn’t be anywhere without her,” he shares. “Honestly, the saying ‘Behind a great man is an even greater woman’ is absolutely true in my case. She takes care of the kids. She takes care of the house. She takes care of everything while I’m trying to do the show business thing. I think that men in general have to realize how strong women are.”

**Related Link:** [‘DWTs’ Pro Anna Trebunskaya Welcomes a Baby Girl and Reveals Boyfriend](#)

When it comes to keeping his marriage strong, he points out that proper communication is key to success. Plus, he knows that great relationships don't just happen: "You have to constantly work on it. If you do that, there's always a light at the end of the tunnel."

Communication is not only important in his relationship with his wife but with his children – Luana, Adrian, and Ariana – as well. Because of his busy schedule on the show, he doesn't get to see his children as often as he'd like, but he doesn't let the distance stop him from being there for them. "I literally call five, six, sometimes seven times a day. Every time I'm on a break, I'm on the phone with my family," he explains. "When they get home from school, they speak to me. Right before they go to bed, they speak to me. When they're doing their homework, they speak to me."

Dovolani sweetly adds, "I'm telling you it's all about communication, and my wife deserves the credit. She's the one that works on it with me and the kids. She's really great about making sure we all communicate and stay on top of things."

**Related Link:** [‘DWTs’ Contestant Sherri Shepherd Chats About the Three Men in Her Life](#)

Luckily for him, his love of dance has been passed down to his children, and the family of five enjoys having dance parties at home. Besides that, they enjoy being outside. "Honestly, in this technology-filled world, as parents, it's our responsibility to make sure we find reasons to get the kids out of the house and into nature. We go ice-skating. We go skiing. We do any sport that we can do as a family."

Keeping that thought in mind, they already have some fun summer plans. He'll be visiting Albania for his niece's



wedding, and once back home he hopes to relax and fish with his kids at a lake near their house. Of course, Dovolani and his wife make sure they have some alone time too. Their date nights are usually at a nice restaurant, enjoying a delicious meal and a few glasses of wine. "My perfect day is playing golf with my kids and ending it with dinner at the clubhouse with Lina."

*Tune in to ABC on Mondays at 8/9c to watch Tony Dovolani and Nene Leakes dance their way to the top on Dancing with the Stars! You can also keep up with Tony on Twitter @TonyDovolani.*