

# Love & Libations: The Sexy Side of Cognac



B

y: [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

During Valentine's Day season most people focus on Champagne. That's totally understandable because it's one sexy wine. I want to encourage you to try something other than sparkling wine. How about adding Cognac into your libation rotation? It's that time of year, February, also known as the month of love. Though at Cupid's Pulse we bring the love year-round.

*Cognac is produced in a very charming city of the same name in France. French is the language of lovers so think of it as the spirit of "love in a bottle".*

For so long people have thought of Cognac as an older man's

drink, but it couldn't be further from the truth. The spirit has a vibrant history of being the libation of choice by kings, queens, and aristocrats. Now, most people think of rappers when they see Cognac. It's true that many famous singers/rappers love Cognac. However, it's also enjoyed by men and women around the world, especially in Japan and the US. Besides being known for luxury, it's rather seductive. It's easy to find it as an ingredient in cocktails at fancy hotel bars and even dive bars have gotten into serving classy Cognac drinks. People have caught on to how delightful and versatile Cognac can be.

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Ready to get it in? Here are some celebrity-inspired suggestions:

### **Branson Cognac**

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson is always up to something. If he isn't posting leaks for his hit show, Power, he is trolling someone online. What you may not know about him is that he released a Cognac last year called Branson. If you go with the VSOP, it's meant to be used in a cocktail. If you really want to turn it up, get the XO. It's always a smooth move. When you get a whiff of citrus, tobacco, and honey, it starts the game of seduction.

50's love life has been bumpy throughout the years. He may not be the person look to for love advice; however, Branson would be the perfect selection to use in a hot drink to have a cozy night with your partner.

### **Café Amore Cocktail**

1 ounce Branson Cognac

1 ounce amaretto

6 ounces coffee

Whipped Cream ( garnish)

Pour Cognac and amaretto into an Irish coffee glass. Fill with hot black coffee. Top with whipped cream.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: The Love Of The Negroni](#)

### **Conjure Cognac**

When Conjure first came out it was a little rough around the edges. The spirit by Ludacris has stepped up its game. The tag line is "Conjure the Possibilities". Sounds fun, but you may want to proceed with caution since some have called Cognac, "baby-making juice." Or as Ludacris would put it, makes you a " lady in the streets, but a freak in the bed"

The aromas in this juice are cocoa, cedar, and hazelnut. Below is the recipe by Conjure for a sweet tea that would be perfect to pair with a romantic home-cooked dinner. It will get your senses going among other things.

### **Conjure Sweet Tea**

4-5 mint sprigs

1 1/2 oz. Conjure

3/4 oz. freshly pressed lemon juice

1 oz. simple syrup

1 oz. iced tea

Fill glass with ingredients. Shake and strain over fresh ice

cubes. Garnish with a spring of mint.

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## Love & Libations: 'Tis The Season For Punch



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y: [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

'Tis the season made for entertaining. Whichever holiday you invite people to celebrate with you, a punch is the way to go. It's a great way to imbibe with family and loved ones,

plus it saves you the hassle of having to continuous drinks during the night. Put out a punch bowl then pop a ladle in it, you will be good to go.

## Must-Try Holiday Punches!

### Blackened American Whiskey

As we know, celebrities love being in the booze game. Who would have thought that award-winning Master Distiller, Dave Pickerell, and Metallica would collaborate to create a bourbon. Maybe their song, "Whiskey In A Jar" was a big hint. Blackened American Whiskey is a marriage of the finest bourbons, ryes & whiskeys, however, it's mainly bourbon. The whiskey gets finished in black brandy casks. Does it get any sexier than that?\

This is all to say that the whiskey would be perfect in a punch. The first time I had Blackened was in a cold toddy. It's the sibling cocktail to the hot toddy. It's refreshing and is a holiday treat in a glass.

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### Cold Toddy

Ingredients:

- 1 medium orange
- 5 medium lemons
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 4 Earl Grey tea bags
- 1 tsp. whole cloves
- 2/3 cup honey
- 2 cups Blackened Whiskey
- 1 tsp. orange or regular bitters
- Orange twists (for serving)

Directions:

Using a vegetable peeler, remove zest from orange and 1 of the lemons in strips, leaving white pith behind; slice fruit in half. Squeeze juice from orange into a small bowl. Squeeze juice from lemon into a measuring glass. Slice remaining lemons in half and squeeze juice into glass to measure 1 cup total; save any remaining lemon halves. Set orange and lemon juice aside.

Place zest in a small saucepan. Beat cinnamon sticks with the side of a chef's knife to break up a little and add to saucepan along with smashed ginger, tea bags, cloves, and 1 3/4 cups water. Bring to a boil and remove from heat; let sit 5 minutes. Remove tea bags, then stir in honey; let cool completely, about 15- 20 minutes.

Strain tea mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a pitcher and add whiskey, bitters, and reserved orange juice and lemon juice. Add 2 cups ice and stir until ice is melted and the toddy is very cold.

To serve, pour toddy into glasses filled with ice and garnish with orange twists.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Holiday Cocktailing Like A Celebrity](#)

## **Próspero Tequila**

Another spirit that should make a guest appearance at your holiday table is tequila. You can make a yummy libation that pairs with your autumn dishes. I've recently discovered that tequila deserves more credit when it comes to pairing with food.

Did you know that Rita Ora has a female-driven tequila called Próspero Tequila? It's a relatively new libation and a new area for Ora. The distiller of tequila is one of the few women in the industry. It's smooth, elegant, and sassy, we couldn't expect anything less from Ora.



What should you make with this tequila? The Texas Punch is a good way to go since it's the perfect addition to any gathering. It's a drink that your friends and family will love. It's also a drink that you can make for you and your boo to keep in the fridge for after a hard day at work.

## **Texas Christmas Punch**

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 4 cups pomegranate juice
- 3 cups Próspero Tequila
- 1 cup lime juice
- 2 cups cranberry juice
- 1 750-ml bottle sparkling wine (recommend Crémant or Cava)
- fresh cranberries to garnish

### **Directions:**

In saucepan combine the sugar and water and bring to a boil, dissolving the sugar. Remove from heat and cool completely. This will create what is known as simple syrup.

In a large punch bowl stir together the simple syrup, pomegranate juice, tequila, lime juice, and cranberry juice. Chill for 2 hours. Stir in the sparkling wine and serve for a very good time.

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# Love & Libations: Fall For Celebrity Wines This Autumn



B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Pumpkin spice lattes are great, but wait, it's time to get wines for autumn. 'Tis the season for snuggling, cuddling, and binge-watching your favorite shows with a [libation](#) to sip and savor. What this means is that it's time to stock up on wine. Have a good supply so that you are ready for crisp cold nights and snowstorms. Plus, you never know when Netflix is going to drop a new surprise show on a Friday night.

## Celebrate Fall With These Autumn



# Worthy Wines

Here are some wine picks to enjoy doing this autumn season:

## **Gerard Depardieu Chateau de Tigne Anjou Rouge**

It's no secret that actor and bon vivant, Gerard Depardieu, loves wine. He once admitted that he drank 14 bottles of wine a day. I would never challenge him to a drinking game, no way would I survive. Depardieu owns several vineyards with one of his most well-known being Chateau de Tigne in the Loire Valley, France. The red wine from this winery is the way to go while you are enjoying comfort food or after a long day at work.

It's the kind of wine that's good with most meals, enjoyed with a pizza or burger. The bonus is that it's very affordable. Don't forget to have it while watching, *Marseille*, starring Depardieu. It's the first French web series by Netflix. It's so bad it's good. Not to mention, very sexy at times. Of course, the women wear the sexiest French lingerie which is perfect for your own boudoir ideas.

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## **Studio by Miraval**

When [Angelina](#) filed for divorce from [Brad](#), the first thing that wine lover's wanted to know is, "but what about Miraval". Their award-winning rosé has been getting accolades since it hit the market. The good news is that even though the couple has called it quits, the wine lives on and is going strong. The one to sip this season is Studio by Miraval. It's a four grape blend that comes in a bottle that will remind you of perfume. It's for lovers of art and music who want to feel like they are on the French Riviera.

Sip with your love as you cuddle up in a warm blanket and

connect through conversation.

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### **Invivo X, Sarah Jessica Parker Sauvignon Blanc**

Sarah Jessica Parker announced that she would be dropping some wine and it's finally here. The Invivo X, Sarah Jessica Parker's Sauvignon Blanc will be the first wine released in the collection. It's said that SJP has been a part of the wine's process from beginning to end. When I first heard that the wine is produced in New Zealand, I was surprised. It seemed like a New York or California winery would be more fitting, but New Zealand is a rising star in the wine world so it's a good move.

It's the perfect wine to sip and watch Sex and the City with your girl squad as you share the joys and oys of [dating](#). If you are on the other end, maybe you can sip and watch SJP's current show, Divorce, and share some "love is a battlefield" stories.

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### **Domaine Curry Wine Cabernet Sauvignon**

Not just a basketball wife, Ayesha Curry, who is also an author, restaurateur, and culinary personality has put her toe into the wine game as well. The luxury wine is a partnership with her sister-in-law Sydel Curry. The ladies teamed up with John Schwartz of Coup de Foudre in Napa Valley. It's a small production wine so it may be hard to find, but that makes it even better when you do get your hands on a bottle. You will be sipping all fancy.

This is a grown and sexy wine therefore perfect for a romantic night in. I have a feeling the Steph and Ayesha have quite a

few of those (when their parent's watch the three kids).

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# Love & Libations: Tequila Cocktails To Sip Like a Celebrity



y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

While everyone talks about Champagne being sexy, the seduction of tequila is starting to be known. It's been said that women who drink tequila make fabulous lovers. Being a tequila drinker, I won't confirm or deny these claims. You will have to do your own field research to see it if it's true.

## Tequila: a Seductive Spirit for Date Night

It makes sense that celebrities keep selecting tequila as a business they want to get into; the rich and famous always want to be a part of the hottest and sexiest thing. From [Justin Timberlake](#), to Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Toby Keith, Carlos Santana, and on and on, tequila is the hottest trend. It would be nice to see a few female celebrities come out with a tequila, as well. Imagine if Cardi B. got into the tequila game; it would be lit.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: The Love of Negroni](#)

If you want to sip tequila like a celebrity, be ready for National Tequila Day on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Below are suggestions for cocktails made with two hot brands to help you celebrate the day. Either rock it with your friends or just the one you love. Stay strong and get your tequila on.

At this point everybody knows that [George Clooney](#) and Rande Gerber are a part of Casamigos Tequila. They made so much money selling it, Clooney has boasted that he never has to work again. The main reason they got into tequila was so they could have one to drink while hanging out. Clooney is legendary for entertaining with food and drinks. I'm still waiting on my invite, it must be lost in the mail.

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Casamigos is the go-to tequila when you are having your

friends and family over. Since Clooney married Amal, his tequila soirees are now filled with deep conversations of politics and economics. You don't have to aim for that, unless that's how you want to spend the night. Maybe just a night of tacos and tequila. Who wouldn't love that for their next [date night](#)?

### **Smoky Casa Margarita**

#### **Ingredients:**

2 oz. Casamigos Tequila

1 oz. Fresh Lime Juice

.75 oz. Agave Nectar

2 Dashes Orange Bitters

Flamed Orange Peel

#### **Instructions:**

Combine all ingredients into tin shaker. Add ice. Shake well. Strain into rocks glass. Add fresh ice. Garnish with a flamed orange peel.

Two well-known crooners, [Adam Levine](#) and Sammy Hager, created a unique libation by mixing tequila and mezcal together for the world's first "mezquila," called Santo Puro Mezquila. The spirit came to life after Levine and Hager were drinking together in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. They were probably a tad tipsy when they decided to mix tequila and mezcal, but they both liked the taste so much they decided to make mezquila a real thing. Leave it to one of the sexiest men alive to come up with a libation that features not one, but two sensuous spirits in a bottle. Santo is the drink that is perfect for a relaxing evening at home while listening to a playlist with a little Maroon 5.



## Santo Revelation

### Ingredients:

- 1.5 oz. Santo Mezquila
- 1 oz. Passion Fruit Nectar
- 2 ea. Thin Slices of Fresh Ginger Root
- 1 ea. Lime Wedge
- 2 oz. Ginger Beer
- 0.25 oz. Pomegranate Syrup  
(sub: Premium Grenadine)

### Instructions:

Muddle ginger root, lime wedge, and passion fruit purée in shaker glass. Add Santo and ice. Shake well and strain over fresh ice. Top with ginger beer and sink pomegranate syrup. Garnish with a ginger slice (optional).

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## Love & Libations: The Love Of The Negroni





B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

When you ask someone which cocktail they love, the Negroni may be the first thing that comes to mind. It's such a phenomenon that you can find one on pretty much any menu, or simply request it at a bar. As I mentioned in an earlier column, Anthony Bourdain loved this drink so much that he called it "the perfect cocktail". There's even a Bubbly Negroni that was invited for Valentine's Day; the sex appeal can't be denied. This drink is perfect for [date night!](#)

## The Sexiest Drink for Date Night: Negroni

This year, the cocktail turns 100 years old. We have two guys to thank for the libation with a love story at the heart of it all.

The Negroni is named after Count Camillo Negroni, who was known for being quite a character. The Count went into his favorite cafe and wanted an Americano (created by Gaspare

Campari) with a bit more alcohol. That's when a bartender replaced the soda for gin, and just like that a famous cocktail was born. There are three main ingredients to make a Negroni: Campari, gin, and vermouth. While you can use any gin or vermouth, there is only one Campari.

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Most people know the liqueur because it's in almost every bar and restaurant around the world. Did you know that behind it all is a love story? As you know back in the day, people named everything after themselves, which is why you probably won't be surprised to find out that in 1860 a man named Gaspare Campari started a small family business to make aperitifs. When he died, his two sons took over the business. It was David Campari who started using celebrities in the Campari posters. Basically, Campari was rocking with celebs before it was cool.

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In the midst of it all, Davide Campari fell in love with a famous Italian opera singer, Lina Cavalleri. She was also known as the "greatest beauty in the world". She was definitely a lovely lady; in regard to singing, let's just say her looks probably got her hired. Davide fell madly in love with Lina and followed her on a world tour. Today, we might call that stalking, whereas during their time it was thought of as "charming". As they traveled to Milan, Moscow, and New York, Davide started selling his families products to bars and restaurants. The small family business grew into a worldwide sensation. While the business became a success, it's sad to say that Lina wasn't really feeling Davide. She married someone else, while he would pine for her until the day he died.

The love story started off between a man and woman, but grew into the world's love for a bitter liqueur. I guess that's what makes the story so bittersweet.

May your love story turn out much better. Enjoy a Negroni or two with your boo during Negroni Week. If you are rocking the single life, get together with your squad and celebrate the single life.

#### Classic Negroni

1 oz. gin

1 oz. Campari

1 oz. sweet vermouth

Orange twist

Stir ingredients in a mixing glass with ice, then strain into a chilled cocktail glass, and garnish with an orange twist.

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## Love & Libations: Celebrity Pink Sips For The Summer





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Rosé is the ultimate sip and chill with your partner or get together with friends kind of wine. While it's perfect for any time of year, spring and summer, seem to be the time that people fixate on rosé. That means rosé will be popping up at your local wine store any minute. Which one should you try? Decisions. Decisions.

## Sip and Chill With Your Partner

Here are four bottles to help you think pink:

### **Jon Bon Jovi- Diving Into Hampton Water**

When Bon Jovi said he was getting into the wine game, many of us gave a side-eye. Did we really need another rock star with a wine? Turns out the joke was many wine lovers, rosé including me. Bon Jovi worked with this son, Jesse Bongiovi, to put the spirit of the Hamptons into a bottle. The crooner has a home in the Hamptons. That's rather common for New York based celebrities. He enjoys which is what he has deemed "pink



juice” until his son came up with the cleaver term “Hampton water?”

The three grapes for the wine are hand-picked in the South of France. It’s produced in Provence to be exact which is where rosé has been perfected. It was named best rosé of 2018 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine.

It’s the perfect pink juice to sip while chilling at the pool with your boo. Cheers to a sensuous lazy day with your partner. Live it up while you’re alive.

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### **Sarah Jessica Parker- Invivo Rosé**

Finally, Sarah Jessica Parker is giving women more of what they want and it’s in a bottle. Parker is teaming up with a winery from New Zealand to produce a line of wines that will come out this summer. Now you know rosé is in the mix. It will probably be a big hit considering women will want to see what the Sex and the City diva is conjuring up.

According to Parker, she has always loved entertaining family/friends over a good bottle of wine and food. I guess this is her “inner Martha Stewart” coming out. New Zealand is an interesting choice for her when it comes to wine however the rosé will come from Provence.

It has all the makings of a rosé the have when you gather with your girls and talk about intimate details with your Mr. Big.

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### **John Legend- LVE Côtes de Provence Rosé**

Sultry singer, John Legend, has added a fourth wine to his already stellar wine line up. Now you can rosé all day with

his LVE Rosé. Legend teamed up with winemaker/dandy Charles Boisset once again to produce the wine. The duo brings the perfect combination to make LVE the ultimate lifestyle wines. The goal is to bring a wine that is connected to luxury, yet still affordable.

The pale pink wine is crisp on the tongue with notes of berries and peach blossoms. This wine would go great with Chrissy Teigen's Pan Seared Fish in her latest cookbook. It's safe to call this a romantic dinner at home kind of wine.

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### **Christie Brinkley- Bellissima Rosé**

If you want a wine that has a healthy and green lifestyle then Christie Brinkley's bubbly rosé is where it's at. She has been a vegetarian/flexible vegan since she was 12 years old. This is why what goes into her wine is so important to her,

The wine is made from 100% organic Pinot Noir grapes with hints of strawberries and grapefruit. The Prosecco is vegan and low sugar so it's perfect for someone watching their sugar intake.

The perfect wine to pair when your partner is making food on the grill. Light up those candles and make it a cozy night. Netflix and chill await

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## **Love & Libation: Kiss Me,**

# Cocktails Inspired by Irish Authors



B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

The most popular holiday in March has got to be St. Patrick's Day. The celebration is a feast day for Saint Patrick the patron saint of Ireland. Once the Irish made it to America they used the day to honor all things, Irish. *The Kiss Me I'm Irish* slogan comes from if you can't kiss Blarney Castle, the next best thing is kissing someone who's Irish to get the power of eloquence and luck.

## St. Patricks Day Drinks

To celebrate this joyous Irish occasion indulge in some cocktails named after famous Irish writers. As we all know the Irish love drinking to their dearly departed. The following cocktails are inspired by Irish writers who had very interesting love lives.

## Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde is one of Ireland's most influential playwrights. It's said that he got his storytelling skills from his mother, Lady Jayne, who was known for making an entrance. His first love was Florence Balcombe, but she dropped Wilde to marry Bram Stoker. After proposing marriage to two other women, Wilde eventually married the scandalous woman, Constance Lloyd, who was just as ambitious as he was. They lived a life surrounded by bougie folks. While an affectionate marriage, Wilde ended up preferring the company of young men. As Wendy Williams would say "How you doin?"

## Oscar Wilde Cocktail

1 1/4 Ounce(s) Absinthe

3/4 Ounce(s) Fresh lemon juice

3/4 Ounce(s) Simple Syrup

1 Egg White

1 Ounce(s) Chilled Champagne

Freshly grated nutmeg, orange twist

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**James Joyce**

The Irish icon, James Joyce, published his first piece at 9. Some of his most popular works are Ulysses, The Dead and Finnegans Wake. While you may not consider those page-turners, there are letters by Joyce that may be up your alley. You may be surprised to find out that Joyce wrote filthy love letters to his wife, Nora Barnacle. Some of them would even make Christin Grey blush. There's nothing like a good ole fashion naughty love letter to spice things up in a romance. Use Joyce for inspiration to write your own and serve this cocktail.

### James Joyce Cocktail

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of Irish whiskey

$\frac{3}{4}$  ounces sweet vermouth

$\frac{3}{4}$  ounces Cointreau

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce lime juice

Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with an orange slice

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### F. Scott Fitzgerald

Most people have read "The Great Gatsby" since it was required reading in school. It was a very glitzy and glamorous story of prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922 written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. While he was born in America, he had had Irish roots. Fitzgerald and his saucy wife Zelda lived a party filled life and had a passionate relationship. Basically, they partied and loved hard. While there isn't a cocktail after him, he loved a drink called The Gin Rickey. His spirit of choice was gin because it was undetectable on his breath. He



is known for saying “ First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you”.

### The Gin Rickey

#### Ingredients

2 oz. Gin

$\frac{1}{2}$  Lime

Club Soda

Add the gin to the Collins glass full of ice. Add the juice from the lime half, then drop the shell into the glass. Top with soda water.

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## Love & Libations: Celebrity Reds To Turn You On





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

While most of the attention in February goes to Valentine's Day and Galentine's Day, the whole month is known as the month of love. This is where red wine comes in.

It's been said that when you want to get romantic, red wine is where it's at. It boosts the libido. The wine contains flavonoids (antioxidants) that increase the blood flow to key areas that get things going in the boudoir. While the tannins and histamines in the wine give your body a bit of warmth which also gets you in the mood for a little fun.

## Red Wines For Your Love Life

The following are some reds that will add a touch of spice to your love life.

### **Nocking Point Wines- Year VI Cabernet Sauvignon**

Plenty of celebrities have wine, but Nocking Point is the first line of wines to be curated by celebrities. The winery was co-founded by Stephen Amell from the hit WB show, Arrow. The wines are produced in Washington. You may be surprised to find out that they are the 2nd largest producing wine state in the US. There are great wines coming out of the region.

This red is their flagship wine. It's aged in French oak

barrels with aromas of red and black fruits, plus a bit of wood. The perfect wine for a romantic dinner that includes steak or a truffle pizza.

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### **Il Paglaio- Roxanne Rosso Toscana**

I was sent a note that Sting and Trudie Styler wanted to send me this wine so how could I say no? It's produced on the land of their villa in Tuscany where the couple love to spend some quality time.

When people think of this duo, "sexy" tends to come to mind. How many couples do you know that practice seven-hour tantric sessions? Maybe it's something we should all get going in our lives.

Roxanne Red is named after the famous song written by Sting, but it's also inspired by Alexander the Great's wife, a muse of Cyrano De Bergerac. The song is about a man who falls in love with a lady of the night. He confesses his love and asks her to stay with him.

While the song leaves it up to our imagination whether she stays or goes, if you bring a bottle of Roxanne Red, you just may win your lover's heart. It's a red blend that has "amore" written all over it. Think deep ruby red with notes of red fruits, cherries, and spices. All the makings of a love libation. While you are at it, pair a little tantra with your wine.

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### **Las Jaras Wine- Old Vine Carignan**

The wine was created for good times and to have the perfect wine to pair with food. This small production of wine is co-created by Eric Wareheim. You may have seen him on the Netflix show, Master of None.

If your partner is into wine from California, this is a good selection. The Carignan grape is originally from Spain so this wine will give you a Spanish vibe. The bold juicy red is a food friendly wine which is exactly what you are looking for when you want to have a romantic meal. Long story short, this is a unique bottle of wine. Your love will be pleasantly surprised if you choose this one.

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## **Bastianich Wines- Vespa Rosso**

When a kitchen witch like Lidia Bastianich has a wine, attention must be paid. Bastianich has been wowing audiences with her Italian cooking for years. Between her cookbooks and restaurants, it's not surprising that she got into the wine game. Founded in 1997, the wines are produced in the Friuli Colli Orientali DOC region of Italy.

This red blend has aromas of mulberries, blackberries, and balsamic vinegar. This powerful wine also comes with a touch of elegance. It would be great with bleu cheese and honey. It's been said that cheese is an aphrodisiac. Imagine how fun a red wine, honey, and bleu cheese would be. Plus this wine will make you feel like you're sipping in the beautiful lands of Italy.

Some people forget about Italian wine during romantic holidays because France seems to have the "sexy image" on lock. Don't forget to add Italian wines in your list.

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and [celebrity couple](#) predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

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## **Love & Libations: Holiday Cocktailing Like A Celebrity**





B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Tis' the season for cocktailin' like the rich and famous. It's no secret that celebrities love a good party, but then again who doesn't? As you entertain or spend quality time at home this season channel your inner celeb with one of the following drinks.

While she may no longer be with us, Elizabeth Taylor is an icon. It's not a secret that Taylor loved herself a drink. Some of her heavy drinking came due to her rocky yet passionate relationship with Richard Burton. In the Golden Age of Hollywood, drinking was a recreational sport to many. Taylor's favorite cocktail was the "Black Russian", she added the Hershey's syrup for her own special touch. This libation would be great with holidays cookies, watching classic Christmas movies and wearing matching pajamas with your partner.

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Taylor's Black Russian



1 oz vodka

1 oz Kahlua

1 oz Hershey's chocolate syrup

Heat the chocolate syrup until it gets warm (make sure not to burn it). Add the ingredients to a mixing glass or shaker and stir until well combined. Fill the glass with ice and stir until chilled. Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice.

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For years I'd heard about a cocktail called the "Pornstar Martini". It's a popular drink in places such as London, though most bartenders around the globe know how to make one. I had the pleasure of meeting the inventor of the cocktail, Douglas Ankrah, at an event in NYC. Since I know the drink is popular in the hottest bars in London, I asked him what famous people had been spotted sipping his cocktail. Let's just say that the Duchess of Cambridge (who we all know as Kate Middleton) used to enjoy this martini when out with her friends.

This drink is obviously a good choice for a party because it would get the guests talking. It's also the perfect libation to serve when you are snuggling in with your boo. It's a little naughty yet nice. Suggestive cocktails have a way of making couples creative. Besides that, it's a good drink of Netflix and chill.

Pornstar Martini

2 oz. vanilla vodka

1 oz passion fruit puree

$\frac{1}{2}$  oz vanilla syrup

$\frac{1}{2}$  oz lime juice

Side shot of Champagne ( or go with Crémant)

Combine vodka, passion fruit, vanilla syrup and lime juice in a shaker filled with ice. Shake it up then strain into a coup. Serve with a shot of Champagne or Crémant.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Heat Up Your Relationship with a Date Night in the Kitchen](#)

In the past few years, Oprah has been showing us her fun side. Lady O mentioned that she makes a mean margarita, but her favorite drink is a Pomegranate Rosé Martini. When you are living a luxurious life like Oprah, the sparkling wine for this libation has to be champagne, of course. Can't you totally see Oprah and Gayle kicking back with a few of these over the holidays in one of her stunning homes. This cocktail is great for catching up with your girl squad.

Pomegranate Rosé Martini

2 oz vodka

3 oz. fresh pomegranate juice

$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp fresh lemon juice

2 oz rosé Champagne

Fill the shaker with ice, vodka, pomegranate juice, and lemon juice. Strain into a martini glass and top off with the sparkling rosé. Garnish with dried star anise.

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# Love & Libations: Celebrity Wines For Turkey Day



B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

I'm sure you noticed that the day after Halloween the Christmas stuff was out front and center. Let's not forget about poor forgotten Thanksgiving. After all, it's a day to remember to be grateful for family and friends. Who doesn't love stuffing themselves with good food and libations on this holiday? While there are many wines to pair with your turkey day meal, here are some celebrity selections that are delicious and will make you feel fancy.

# Different Celebrity Wines

## 1) Moët Chandon Champagne Brut

It's the first Champagne to even bother to work with celebrities. The first ambassador was Scarlett Johansson. No one knows why their relationship didn't last, but the bubbles moved on to tennis great, Roger Federer, to continue with its sexy sipping.

You may not realize this, but sparkling wine is perfect to pair with a Thanksgiving meal since bubbles go with anything and everything. Most people wait for a special occasion to break out the Champagne. What could be better than a meal with friends and family on a day full of gratitude? The wine would go great with turkey, but it's perfect for your guest who simply likes to indulge in the side dishes.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn + Red Wine = Love](#)

## 2) 2015 Napa Valley Three by Wade Red Blend/Wade Cellars

NBA player, Dwayne Wade has a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. He and his wife/actress, Gabrielle Union, has just welcomed a baby girl. Wade has even taken time off from games to welcome his daughter.

As some of you may know, Wade is part of the secret NBA wine club. He enjoys wine so much that he started his own luxury wine label called Wade Cellars. The Napa Valley Three has some of the best red grapes swirled together such as Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, and Zinfandel. The black fruit and floral notes would be perfect for celebrating the day with those you love.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Cocktails Inspired by Halloween](#)

## 3) Lve Chardonnay/ Lve Collection by John Legend

John Legend has been in the wine game for a few years now. He teamed with wine personality, Charles to create a wine that is elegant and sophisticated. Long story short, his wine is as smooth as his music. I would love to know what he and Chrissy Teigen pair his wines. Will she cook this Thanksgiving or have it catered now that she has two little ones? Whatever they do, I assume wine will be in hand.

This California produced wine would be a delight with your turkey and for those who are vegetarians at your table. It's full and rich with notes of butter and toasted almonds. It's the perfect pairing and works well with a good playlist featuring some of John's music.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Palate Pleasing Pairings & Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day](#)

#### **4) Miraval Rosé/ Chateau Miraval Cotes de Provence**

While the love may be over between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie their wine remains something to fall in love with. When they released the *rosé* it sold out in minutes. When the couple announced their split, wine lover around the world panicked because no one knew would become of their beloved *rosé*.

The wine lives on until further notice. If you are a fan of a good French *rosé*, this one is for you. A glass of Miraval would be great as an aperitif when your guests arrive or as a kick off to a more intimate dinner.

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# Love & Libations: Cocktails Inspired by Halloween



October brings on the spooky vibes. This month's column is going to focus on cocktails inspired by a couple of villains and a badass woman who are icons, especially during the Halloween time. The cocktails include a celebrity brand to as well as a simple alternative spirit. Their libations will get you to have a scary good time.

## Halloween Cocktails For A Scary Good Time

Nothing beats curling up under a blanket and watching Friday 13th. If you are like me, you're probably wondering why the



heck people even still go to Camp Crystal Lake. That's not to say that Jason hasn't traveled. He even made his way to New York City. Some of the best moments in the series are when couples are making out and one of them goes to check out the noise. That's a sure sign that one of them won't be coming back.

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Jason Voorhees- Friday The 13th

The Voorhees is made with fresh strawberries for the bloody red effect. Simple garnish with strawberries and add a touch of sea salt to the rim. Sip a few of these while watching binging on the series. If one of you leaves the room and takes too long to come back, maybe Jason decided to crash your party.

### **The Voorhees**

3 Big ripe strawberries, sliced

2 ounces of Casamigos Blanco (alternative: Casa Noble)

$\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon simple syrup

1 ounce lime juice

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce triple sec

strawberry for garnish

Directions:

1) Muddle strawberries and simple syrup in the cocktail shaker until the berries are a nice liquid.

2) Add the lime juice, tequila, and triple sec to the shaker. Now shake until well blended. Pour into a chilled coup.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine For Holiday](#)

## Date Nights

### Ellen Ripley- Alien

To this day, Ellen Ripley, from the movie alien is still one of the best-regarded heroines of horror movies. The character was eloquently played by Sigourney Weaver. It was the first time an actor was nominated for an Academy Award for a sci-fi or horror movie.

I call this cocktail the Ripley Weaver not only as a homage to Ripley but also to Weaver who is a badass woman. Weaver was in the same class as Meryl Steep at Yale and was told she wouldn't amount to much. It's safe to say she has proven people wrong. The libation brings together three French classics: Cognac, Crémant, and Cassis. A touch of bubbles to celebrate her power, the Cognac is her for smooth and calm nature taking on aliens, and the chassiss is all about her edge. Alien is fun to watch with a group of friends, I dare you to watch with the lights off.

### **The Ripley Weaver**

6 ounces Crémant de Bourgogne

1 ounce of Cassis

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of D'usse Cognac (alternative: Hennessy Black)

Directions:

Pour the cassis and Cognac into a chilled coup glass then top with the Crémant de Bourgogne. Garnish with berries or nothing at all, this cocktail is so good it needs nothing else at all. Even the Queen Mother would approve.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Celebrities Sips on Tequila Day](#)

### Freddy Kruger- A Nightmare on Elm Street

A Nightmare on Elm Street ruined sleep for plenty of people when the movie came out. Freddie Krueger became everyone's favorite villain to fear and love at the same time. He was smooth and shady all at the same time. Some of his lines were brutal as he took out his victims. Kruger had a hard life which made him salty enough to become a killer.

If ever there was a cocktail that screams Freddy Kruger it's a negroni. The bitter yet balanced drink that so many people love. The twist on this drink is that it's made with Amaro versus Campari. This one would be fun to sip in bed while in bed with your partner. Snacks and a Freddy On Elm Street, just don't fall asleep.

### **Freddy On Elm Street**

2 oz. Amaro Montenegro

1 oz. Aviation Gin (alternative: Blue Coat Gin)

1 oz. Sweet Vermouth

Orange slice

Directions:

Stir Amaro, gin and vermouth in an ice-filled glass, garnish with the slice of orange. One, two, Freddy's coming for you.

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## **Love & Libations: Autumn +**

# Red Wine = Love



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

## Red Wines For Upcoming Autumn

**Gifft Red Blend by: Kathie Lee Gifford**

It's no secret that Kathie Lee Gifford loves wine. She and her co-star Hoda always have a fun libation in front of them during the show. The name of the wines come from her last name and belief that friendship, love, and laughter are gifts that should be cherished. Recently Gifford has said that she is willing to make room in her heart for someone new. At this point, it would take someone pretty special to wine to sweep her off her feet. Her busy social life and show keep her content.

What's great about Gifft Wines is how affordable they are. It makes them the perfect option to channel your inner Kathie Lee and entertain friends and family.

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### **Baby Bear Syrah by: Kyle McLaughlin**

One could say that Kyle McLaughlin is aging like his fine wines. When not acting McLaughlin can be found focusing on making small batch wines in Walla Walla, Washington. It's his home state and he said that he was obsessed with wines from the region. The unusual name for his line of wines comes from a reference from Shakespeare. If you've never had wines from the state you are in for a treat. Washington is known for producing amazing Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Riesling and Syrah.

This is a special wine that should come out for a special occasion like an anniversary or romantic dinner. Make sure you have this one at home or a hotel so that you are close to the boudoir, it will give you the feels.

**Related Links:** [Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine for Holiday Date Nights](#)

### **Two Paddocks Pinot Noir – by: Sam Neill**

If you won't know the actor, Sam Neill by name, you would definitely know him if you saw him. He recently was seen in the frisky movie, Gerald's Game. Let's just say handcuffs were involved. While he has had a very successful career as an actor, he found that he had a passion for wine. Neill has been in the wine game since 1993. Unlike most celebrities who have a wine business in Napa or Sonoma, his winery is in New Zealand. He owns four organic vineyard spread around Otago, a beautiful region known for its luscious mountains.

This big juicy Pinot Noir is bold and full of body. It will be a delight on the palate of any red wine lover. With this wine you could opt for a nice quiet dinner of lamb or steak or have it when you have your closest friends over. It's not a wine for so called friend, but perfect for your squad.

**Related Links:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

### **LVE Cabernet Sauvignon- by: John Legend**

Legend teamed up with the very classy Raymond Vineyards to produce his award winning wine. The goal of the wine is to bring together classic elegance, rich complexity and modern soul.

It has notes of chocolate, blackberries, and oak. Let's just say that it's seduction in a bottle.

This is a wine that is all about spending quality time with your partner. You might even want to whip up a recipe from Chrissy Teigen's new book, *Cravings: Hungry For More*, and pair with the wine. It would be like taking love tips for Chrissy and John.

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# **Love & Libations: Celebs Create In The Name of Love**





B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Everyday it seems like another celebrity is announcing a new wine or spirit. It's hard to keep up, especially when some of them are being quiet about it. There are some famous folks who just put their name on some booze so they can make money. However there are some celebs who do it for love. Below is a list of libations that the stars are putting their heart into.

## In The Name of Love Celebrities Libations

Kelsey Grammer was recently in the news due to the possibility of a Frasier reboot. It was exciting news for fans of the show. While Frasier Crane was an avid sherry lover, what you may not know about Grammer is that he's working on opening a brewery in the Delaware Country near the Catskill Mountains

called Faith American Ale. He bought the land over 25 years ago because he loved going to area when he was growing up, starting a [celebrity vacation](#) trend. The actor went into rehab in 1996, but has stopped going to AA and enjoys a drink from time to time.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

Somewhere along the way, Sting teamed up with Shaggy, making [celebrity news](#). This has made his music relevant to a whole new set of fans. When not making music, Sting is giving his time to wine. Italy has been one of Sting's favorite places to spend time with his wife. The iconic couple is making the wine on their estate, Villa II Palagio. All of the wines are named after Sting's biggest hits, since he says "a wine is like a song- it has a story to tell". If you want, you can rent the villa for a romantic getaway and sip copious amounts of Italian wine.

Jensen Ackles is known to his fans as one half of the Winchester boys on Supernatural. When he's not slaying demons, Ackles is all about beer. He started the brewery, Family Brewing Business, with his wife, Daneel Ackles, who you may know from the show One Tree Hill or One Life To Live. Their goal is to bring people together over good beer, food, and music in their Austin-based tap room. Take Ackles [relationship advice](#): the couple that brews beer together stays together.

Nicki Minaj recently caused a stir on Twitter by claiming her album was delayed due to not being able to have a song cleared by the music legend, Tracy Chapman. Normally the drama that surrounds Minaj is centered around her love life. It's hard to keep up with the rapper's controversies. It's easy to miss that she has a line of bubbly moscatos and sangrias called Myx Fusions. According to Minaj, she didn't want to create an ordinary wine, though it's safe to say anything Minaj does wouldn't be considered ordinary. If only her relationships

were as sweet as her line of wine.

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Ryan Phillippe will forever be known for his bad boy role in Cruel Intentions. He's gone from heartthrob to DILF. I have to admit I was tardy to the Phillippe party until catching his latest show, Shooter. Lately he's been posting about Phillippe Vineyards. While there has been no formal announcement, it appears as if he is getting into the wine game with his family. Phillippe's love life is always a bit bumpy, but his love for his family or a glass of wine can't be denied. Time will tell what he has cooking.

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## Love & Libations: Celebrity Sips on Tequila Day





B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

There's no denying that tequila is one of the hottest spirits around right now; however, not all tequila is created equal. Some of it is cheap and fills you with nothing but regrets the next day. In fact, that may be the reason you're scared to get anywhere near this specific libation ever again. Do yourself a favor and revisit the spirit or take a different approach to it. While there is bad and ugly tequila, there is some really good juice that has hit the market. It's a spirit that men and women enjoy. It's been said that women who drink tequila are mysterious and sexy. On your next [date night](#), maybe pour a little tequila on the rocks to knock off their socks.

**Read for More Tequila Tips from  
Relationship Expert Yolanda  
Shoshana!**

Celebrities have been jumping on the tequila trend. You will find that the celebs who make the best stuff were tequila fans

well before they got into the booze game. National Tequila Day is on July 24th, making it the perfect time to sip like the rich and famous.

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Most people know that Sean Combs has been the face for Cîroc Vodka, but some will be surprised that *DeLeón* Tequila is his baby. Combs is far more vested in the tequila company. The luxury spirit comes in a fancy bottle that would make a great addition to a home bar or the perfect gift for your tequila loving boo. There is a bottle of *DeLeón* that runs for around \$850, but there are affordable options to choose from. Think of this as a sip and chill tequila or the kind of libation to get you in the mood for foreplay and boudoir business.

Casamigos is probably the most famous celebrity tequila on the market. When George Clooney and Rande Gerber sold the company for \$1 billion dollars, everyone clutched their drinking glasses. Though they sold the company, Clooney and Gerber are still very much involved with the brand. I bet Clooney sips a little bit more of it since becoming the father to twins. The Casamigos Blanco would be great for whipping up a batch of margaritas for the girls and chatting about love, life, and the pursuit of happiness.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: The Negroni & Anthony Bourdain](#)

If you have been a fan of Mario Lopez since his *Saved By The Bell* Days, know that he has an adult beverage for you called Casa Mexico that he owns with partner Oscar De La Hoya. Lopez is so into the tequila that 120 bottles were served at his wedding. Take that as [relationship advice](#) from Lopez: the couple that shares tequila together just may stay together. Clearly Casa Mexico is good for sharing with loved ones.

Recently Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson announced that he would be



starting his own tequila brand. Personally, I wish he would have gone with The Rock Rosé, but tequila it is. While his tequila isn't out yet, he deserves an honorable mention. Mana will probably hit the shelves any minute; the Rock wastes no time when he brings it. The spirit will be called Mana Tequila. Mana means supernatural in Polynesian. It will be interesting to see how the spirit comes together. Given the name, it sounds like there will be an island flair to it. I imagine it will be good for when you and your partner can't travel to the Polynesian triangle but want to feel like you're on a [romantic getaway](#).

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## Love & Libations: The Negroni & Anthony Bourdain







B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

When I was thinking about what I wanted to do for this column, I was walking through NYC and came upon Les Halles. Unless you have been away from the news recently, you may know that Anthony Bourdain passed away. Les Halles was a French bistro where he got his start as an executive chef. Let's just say many romantic nights were had at the restaurant. Though both locations of the bistro are now closed, people have been leaving tributes to him pasted on the windows. Consider this my cheers to the icon.

The culinary world is still reeling over the death of Bourdain; in fact, it may never be the same. It will be hard to find anyone who can take his place, though someone will try to fill the void. He undoubtedly changed the way that people eat and drink. Someone said, "He was the Mr. Rogers of the food world." I would have never compared the two, but he did have an edgy Mr. Rogers charm about him. More importantly, both men had a way of making people stop, listen and think in a way that impacted lives. People around the world are coming forward with stories of how Bourdain helped them learn to love

food. Since there's such a deep connection between love and food, maybe Bourdain should have added "love doctor" to his resume.

## Keep reading for details from our relationship expert Yolanda Shoshana on the late Anthony Bourdain's favorite cocktail!

While most people think of food when they think of Bourdain, he was also a man who loved a good libation. He was often caught with a glass of wine in his hand, but there was a particular cocktail that he was a big fan of as well: The Negroni. Named after Italian Count Camillo Negroni in 1919, the classic aperitif is famous around the world. Bourdain called it the perfect drink, saying, "It's [made from] three liquors that I'm not particularly interested in, but put them together with a slice of orange... it works. That first sip is confusing and not particularly pleasant. But man, it grows on you." I would have to agree. The first time I took a sip of a Negroni, I was intrigued. After about three sips, that intrigue turned to love. It's been one of my favorite libations ever since.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Mint Juleps for a Derby Date Idea](#)

Bourdain shared a story with *Maxim* about how he made Negroni cocktails for his crew and ended up a bit tipsy. It's the kind of drink meant to share with those near and dear. Get your squad together for a Negroni or two. We can all use a little bit more love and light. Plus, you can also use it as an aphrodisiac cocktail if you want to just kick it with your boo on [date night](#). It's the perfect libation to sip during intimate conversations.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Royal Reds for the Royal Celebrity Wedding](#)

The best part about the Negroni is that it's so simple to make. All you need are three ingredients and a slice of orange. If you don't have the orange slice, don't fret. After a few sips, it won't even matter. Cheers to you, Bourdain and those you love.

### **Negroni**

1oz. Gin

1 oz. Campari

1 oz. Sweet Vermouth

Slice of orange

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## **Love & Libations: Royal Reds for the Royal Celebrity Wedding**





B

y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

All eyes have been on the royal [celebrity wedding](#) between Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. Between the cameras, approvals from the Queen, and invitations, Markle will probably be thrilled to relax with a glass of wine during her wedding reception. While there are many charming things about Markle, what I like about her the most is her love of good Italian red wine. Imagine chilling with Meghan over a glass of red, talking about tiaras and, hopefully, she shares the secret to her roast chicken recipe.

“The Tig” was the name of Markle’s lifestyle blog that was named after Tignanello, a full-bodied red wine from Italy. Long story short, it’s a wine from Tuscany that is a part of what is called the Super Tuscan revolution, which took place in the 1970’s. The red blend is a combo of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc produced in the Chianti Classico region. This would suggest that Markle has a sophisticated palate. She is prepared for all of the fancy meals at the palace, not to mention the food she will share with Prince Harry as they travel the world together.

A bottle of Tignanello can run from \$80 to \$150. However, there are Tuscan wines up to par that are more affordable. The following is a list of five wines that I like to think of as “royal reds” from Tuscany and ones that I think would receive a thumbs up from Markle herself. After all, a bold Italian red is perfect to sip during fairy-tale weddings or for a [date night](#) with your prince or princess.

## Check out these red wines worthy of any royal celebrity wedding!

### **Luce Della Vite Toscana 2014 (\$100)**

This unique wine is produced by Frescabaldi Estates in Montalcino. It's the first wine from that area made with 60% Sangiovese and 40% Merlot. Montalcino is a highly regarded wine producing commune known for fabulous red wines. The Luce is an elegant blend that has aromas of cherries, blackberries, leather, and coffee. Doesn't that sound nice? Pair with a cheese plate or an exquisite meal. When you want to feel like a [royal celebrity couple](#), this is the perfect wine.

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### **Luce della Vite Lucente Toscana 2015 (\$27)**

It's the second wine from the Luca Della Vite estate that is also produced in Montalcino. This red is a bit younger than the Luce. A full-bodied blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Sangiovese, and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the bottle is packed with fruity aromas. A glass of this goes great with cured meat and cheese. Think of it as a bold and sexy red. It would pair wonderfully with a romantic night.

### **Roxanne Rosso Toscana 2016 (\$20)**

This Super Tuscan wine is produced on Sting and Trudie



Styler's Chianti estate called II Palagio. Who knew they had wine, right?! Roxanne is a blend of 80% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, 10% Syrah. It's the kind of red that goes great with a steak or pasta dish. A truffle cheese would always be a good pairing. If you can't make it to II Palagio, let romance find you and your boo in this bottle of red.

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### **La Mannella Brunello di Montalcino 2012 (\$80)**

While this wine isn't considered a Super Tuscan wine, it's produced in Tuscany. It is made with 100% Sangiovese grapes. In fact, Brunello is the local nickname for the Sangiovese grape. This bold wine is great with beef, lamb, and hearty red sauce dishes. When you want to feel fancy, this is a where it's at.

### **Cecchi La Mora Maremma Toscana 2015 (\$14)**

A fabulous wine for every occasion, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah suits all palates. Aromas that will hit your nose are cherries, spice, chocolate, and a touch of floral. This one would be perfect for a night of snuggling in with roast chicken and garlic mashed potatoes, just like Meghan and Harry. It would also work for a girl's night in, you just may need extra bottles.

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# Love & Libations: Mint Juleps for a Derby Date Idea



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Whether you care about the Kentucky Derby or not, you will be hearing about the races' infamous Mint Julep until the Derby is well and done. You can't have a Derby celebration without the classic cocktail! Plenty of celebrities show up at the Derby to be seen, including Kathy Couric, Debra Messing, Tracy Morgan, and Harry Connick Jr., to name a few. Some celebrities even host events. Try hosting your own Derby party for a fun [date idea](#)!

# Keep reading for celebrity spins on Mint Juleps for a fun date idea!

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Date Ideas & Summer Loving with Rosé](#)

If you can't make it to the Derby to hang out with your favorite famous people, you can still sip like a celeb. Dust off your big hats and put on your flashy clothes (even if you are just watching at home) to rock the latest [celebrity style](#) for your party or date night. Here are two recipes for the Mint Julep for your date idea – one has a Cognac base, while the other is based in whiskey:

## **D'USSE Julep** (recipe courtesy of D'USSE)

Recently, [Beyoncé](#) stunned the world with her hot Coachella performance. Her boo, [Jay-Z](#), even joined her onstage. This celebrity couple will, no doubt, partake in the Derby. Jay-Z will probably make Bey a D'USSE Julep, the cognac-based version of this famous drink. Doesn't she deserve one or two? The Mint Julep was originally made with Cognac, so if you want a historically proper Mint Julep, this recipe is for you. It's perfect for entertaining, but if you and your partner are having a quiet Derby Day at home, it's still a great fit for your date.

### Ingredients:

- 2 1½ parts D'USSE VSOP Cognac
- 1½ part simple syrup
- 2-4 sprigs of mint
- Crushed ice

### Directions:

Place simple syrup in a julep glass with 5 or 6 mint leaves

and muddle. Fill the glass halfway with ice, add 1 1/2 parts of D'USSE VSOP Cognac, and stir. Add more ice and 1 part of D'USSE VSOP Cognac. Stir again until the glass is fully frosted. Top with ice.

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### **Jimmy Russell's Mint Julep**

Matthew McConaughey is in bed with Wild Turkey to have his own signature whiskey called Long Branch. The whiskey is inspired by his Kentucky and Texas roots. The following Mint Julep recipe is one that McConaughey has shared from the master distiller of Wild Turkey, though I recommend using his Long Branch instead of Wild Turkey 101. It has Matt's humor written all over it. This one is a friends-and-family drink. It's worthy of whipping up a batch because it will go fast.

#### **Ingredients:**

- 200 mL Wild Turkey 101 or Long Branch
- 2-3 fresh mint sprigs
- Shaved ice
- 1/3 portion simple syrup
- Powdered Sugar

#### **Directions:**

Pour the whiskey and set aside. To fully enjoy the experience, make sure you have a proper stainless steel julep cup. Pick the fresh mint sprigs of their leaves and muddle the mint leaves in the bottom of the cup. Don't use crushed ice! Get a block of ice and shave some ice into the cup. This step is very important. Once the cup is cold and sweating, add simple syrup, powdered sugar, and mint sprigs. Finally, take the cup, go to your backdoor, throw the whole thing out, and drink the whiskey straight!

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and celebrity couple predictions from relationship expert Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

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## Love & Libations: Date Ideas & Summer Loving With Rosé



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

With the start of spring earlier this week and summer creeping closer, it's time to bust out the rosé. While it's fun to "rosé all day" anytime of the year, there's something even more magical about sipping the pink wine during the spring and

summer months. If you're looking for a fun [date idea](#), here are four rosés that you can enjoy to make you feel like the rich and famous.

## Spring & Summer Date Ideas with Rosé

**Related Link:** [Sparkling Wine for Holiday Date Nights](#)

### Château Miraval Rosé

Love didn't keep [Brad Pitt](#) and [Angelina Jolie](#) together, but their wine, Miraval, is still flowing strong. When the former celebrity couple came out with the rosé, it was such a hit that it was named "the best rosé in the world." When they split, the first question was, "What will happen with the wine?" Luckily, the wine lives on!

Pitt once said that he tastes every barrel himself – but now, I'm not sure who tastes for him now since he is rocking a sober life. Made from four grape varietals in Provence, it's an elegant wine that works for all types of occasions. This wine is perfect for what Wendy Williams calls the "kitchen table top," when you are with family and friends sharing secrets, celebrity gossip, and the joys or oys of life.

### Diving Into Hampton Water Rosé

Can you imagine Jon Bon Jovi sipping rosé by the pool? It's not a bad image at all. He just launched a new rosé inspired by the Hamptons called Diving Into Hampton Water. Rosé wine is known as "Hampton's Gatorade" because it's a big deal during the summer. Bon Jovi's son, Jesse Bongiovi, came up with the concept and name of the wine. While the name of the wine features the Hamptons, it's actually produced in the South of France by the very charming winemaker, Gérard Bertrand.

It's the kind of wine to sip by a pool when hanging out with



your boo. The wine is selling out because it's shiny and new. If you can get your hands on a bottle, it will be a special treat for you and the one you love.

## **Sofia Rosé**

This rosé by Francis Ford Coppola is named after his only daughter Sofia, who most people know as a talented director and screenwriter. With her busy schedule, I can't help but wonder how often she has her wine. This California wine is a blend of Syrah and Pinot Noir. It's an elegant wine in a sexy bottle that showcases the lively pink color of the rosé. The aromas in the wine are floral and berries, which make it wonderful to pair with fish, seafood, and cheese.

Skip the Sofia Rosé bubbles in the can and go for the still wine in a bottle. It's perfect to pair with a quiet date night at home or when you're cooking dinner together.

**Related Link:** [Heat Up Your Relationship with a Date Night in the Kitchen](#)

## **Vanderpump Rosé**

While Lisa Vanderpump is famous for being one of the stars of *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, she is quickly becoming known for her wine. Since she and her husband, Ken Todd, are in the hospitality business with 28 bars and restaurants, having a wine is a natural progression. The Vanderpump Rosé is produced in Provence, so it's perfect to drink when you want to feel like you are in France without hopping on a plane. As Vanderpump says, "Life isn't all diamonds and rosé – but it should be."

It's a feminine wine with a lot of personality on the palate. This wine is perfect for your summer soirees at a rooftop bar or in the backyard with your squad.

For more Love & Libations date ideas and [celebrity couple](#)



predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

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# Love & Libations: Heat Up Your Relationship with a Date Night in the Kitchen



y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Preparing a nice home-cooked meal on a [date night](#) with your partner is one of the sexiest things that you can do together. It's also important to pair your food with the right spirit or wine. There are some [celebrity chefs](#) who have the perfect

libations to add a sensual touch to your dinner table.

## Ideas for Date Nights at Home

If you are a foodie, you have probably already gone to an Alain Ducasse restaurant. The celebrity chef has around 19 Michelin stars under his belt. Ducasse partnered with Grey Goose to create the first gastronomy vodka called Grey Goose Interpreted by Ducasse. Basically, the vodka was made to pair with food. Since it has notes of coffee, chocolate, and vanilla, it would be great to pair with something from the slow cooker on a night that you and your partner plan to stay in. It would be particularly wonderful with a mole sauce.

**Related Link:** [Romantic Cocktails for Winter Date Nights](#)

If anyone should be in the libation business, it's Martha Stewart: She shows us how to cook and entertain better than anyone. She finally got into the wine game by creating a wine club with some of her favorite picks. Joining the club could be a great way for you and your boo to plan your meal based on wines from around the world. Stewart has plenty of aphrodisiac recipes available to whip up that can go with your wine choice. Don't forget to try new dishes! It adds to the excitement.

If you are into Italian wines, then chef Lidia Bastianich has the right wine for you. Besides hosting a television show, Bastianich is a restaurateur mainly on the East Coast, but she has a spot in Kansas City too. She founded the Bastianich Winery in 1997 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia area of Italy. Since she has various cookbooks, you and your partner could select one of her recipes and pair it with one of her wines. If white wine is your choice, the Bastianich Vespa Bianco would be great with fish. On the flipside, the Bastianich Vespa Rosso is the perfect selection for a red sauce dish – and just because red wine is sexy.

**Related Link:** [Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

Wolfgang Puck is known for his extravagant dinners and his work with celebrities. Did you know that Puck also has his own wine? Luckily, they're very affordable: There are both red and white selections in the 12 to 15 dollar range. The wine was created to celebrate family, friendships, and hope. If you wonder what to pair his wines with, go with pizza. Everyone knows that Puck loves pizza, and he has a pizza dough recipe that makes people salivate. Plus, pizza and wine are the perfect pairing for a night of romance.

*For more Love & Libations date night ideas and [celebrity couple](#) predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).*

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





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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

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine for Holiday 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.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Nights Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

## 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 Flirtini 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.

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# Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine for Holiday Date Nights



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December, a month packed with festive holiday gatherings, is the perfect time for sparkling wine. It's also a great way to pop into 2018. Bubbly is known for special occasions, so whichever holidays you celebrate, there's a bottle that will pair perfectly for your situation. Honestly, it's always a good time for sparkling wine. Even if you are having a quiet [date night](#) at home, you can break out the bubbles!

## Enjoy Celebrity Sparkling Wine on

# Your Next Date Night

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Palate Pleasing Pairings & Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day](#)

If you are looking for a sparkling wine to keep on hand, Giuliana Prosecco is the way to go. Most people know [Giuliana Rancic](#) from her days on *E! News*. Besides being a host, she also owns a few restaurants with her handsome husband, Bill Rancic. This year, Giuliana launched her Prosecco at their Chicago-based restaurants as an affordable and quality wine. Now, you can enjoy it with your friends and family for some added holiday cheer. It's like inviting this celebrity couple over for a good time!

When you want an elegant sparkling wine, pick up a bottle of Christie Brinkley's Bellissima DOC Brut. Brinkley is all about clean living, so it's no surprise that her wine is made with organic grapes. Produced in the beautiful region of Treviso, let your palate travel to Italy as you enjoy the aromas of green apples and baked bread. If you and your boo are having a quiet night in for New Year's Eve, let this choice be your go-to.

Former NBA player, Yao Ming, got into the wine game in 2011. The Napa-based winery is known for producing stellar wines. If you are planning a grown and sexy night with your partner, the Yao Ming Napa Valley Brut will add a special touch to your evening. Made with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, this crisp sparkler is flirty on the palate. It will add a touch of seduction to your evening. Yao brings in the meow.

If you want a sparkling wine that comes with a sassy attitude, you can always go with Myx Classico Sangria by Nicki Minaj. There's something about bubbly sangria that screams "good time." The best part about this wine is that it's ready to go. No need to mix up anything – just open the bottle and sip!

This Spanish wine-based sangria is a good one to drink while binging on romantic Christmas movies with your girl squad or with your partner (who may act like he doesn't want to watch, but secretly, you know he does).

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

When Steve Amell isn't charming viewers as *The Arrow*, you can probably find him at his winery, Nocking Point, in Washington. Their limited edition Pacific Coast Pink sparkling rosé is a must-have for the holidays. It pairs perfectly with just about every holiday treat or meal. The sparkler is produced in New Mexico, which is such a fabulous area for sparkling wines that you may get hooked. This wine is perfect for that holiday party you're hosting later this month.

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## Love & Libations: Palate Pleasing Pairings & Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day





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y [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Thanksgiving is a time for spending with the ones who we love. That also means it's a time when wine and cocktails are flowing to celebrate gratitude and the joy of being together. Here are some beverage ideas perfect for pairing with your Thanksgiving meal, whether you're having a special [date night](#) with your partner or a dinner with your friends and family.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

A great way to butter up your mother-in-law is with a bottle of bubbles. Slip her a bottle of Carlos Santana's Supernatural Brut. The blend of Chardonnay and Pinot grapes is a creative collaboration between Mumm Napa and Santana. The aromas of apple, fig, and vanilla are signatures of the holidays. Mumm Napa is one of the best sparkling wine houses around, so she will probably hide the bottle to save it all for herself.

# Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day

Bring [celebrity couple](#) Jay-Z and [Beyoncé](#) to your Thanksgiving table by busting out a bottle of D'USSÉ. A lot of people think of Cognac as a drink for men, but women also love the brandy as well. Your relatives will be thrilled to indulge! Plus, if you aren't married yet, maybe it'll get you "marriage material" points. D'USSÉ has notes of caramel, spices, and honey that will excite your nose as well as your palate. Use the brandy to mix up some cocktail classics like a Sidecar or French 75, which go great with turkey, cranberries, and dressing. Above all else, Cognac is an elixir of love, mainly because it makes everybody feel good.

When you know that your partner digs Scotch, you can most certainly pair it with a Turkey Day feast. A good selection is Haig Club Scotch Whisky, a single grain scotch whisky in a striking blue bottle that is as posh as its British creators [David Beckham](#) and Simon Fuller. Think toffee and butterscotch notes with a short finish. Keep it simple by adding a touch of club soda to it to pair with dinner. If you still plan to serve wine with dinner versus the whisky, make a light Scotch-based cocktail as an aperitif to kick off the festivities.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couple: David Beckham Shares Sweet Birthday Message for Wife Victoria](#)

When your Thanksgiving meal is over, a perfect way to chill with your significant other or family and friends is by having an after-dinner drink such as a Limoncello. The Italian lemon liqueur is mainly produced in Southern Italy. While it's slowly becoming more popular around the world, it's the second most popular liqueur in Italy. Danny Devito's Limoncello is the pick that will do the trick. Devito ended up getting into the Limoncello game after drinking far too many with George Clooney and showing up tipsy for an interview on *The View*.



This is what you call turning lemons into Limoncello!

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## Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines



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Pumpkin spice isn't the only thing that arrives during Autumn. The season brings in the cold weather, making it the perfect



time to snuggle up to your boo and enjoy some red wine to keep you warm. It's been said that red wine is an aphrodisiac for love. According to Euripides, the Greek tragedian who was a wine connoisseur, "where is no wine there is no love."

## Here are some celebrity reds and [date night](#) ideas to enjoy during the crisp and cold months:

### **LVE Cabernet Sauvignon, Raymond Vineyards**

Soul singer [John Legend](#) has a collection of wines called LVE produced in Napa Valley. His Cabernet Sauvignon has notes of blackberries, dark chocolate, and black tea. Can't you imagine [Chrissy Teigen](#) making a dish from her cookbook for Legend and pairing it with some of his wine? File that under relationship goals! Put on some of Legend's slow jams, sip some LVE, and make it a very romantic night.

**Related Link:** [Marriage Advice from Celebrity Couples Who Stay Together](#)

### **Marilyn Merlot, Marilyn Wines**

You know you are an icon when you've passed away and you end up with your own wine. Marilyn Merlot is inspired by none other than Marilyn Monroe. If Monroe's sassy attitude could be put in a bottle, this wine would be the answer. It's easy to assume this wine is mainly for fun, but it's actually a high-quality wine produced in Napa Valley that's been going strong since 1981. Vanilla and tart cherries will flirt with your palate. When you are feeling extra frisky, maybe even a bit adventurous with your partner, this wine is the one.

### **Pinot by Tituss, PBTB Wines**

If you have ever watched the Netflix hit, *The Unbreakable*

*Kimmy Schmidt*, you are probably familiar with the character Titus Andromedon, played by Tituss Burgess. In season one, his character sang a song called “Peeno Noir.” The song became a viral hit, which lead to Burgess creating a Pinot Noir wine. The actor has said that the wine is meant to be enjoyed by all the fabulous “Kings and Kweens.” This fun and fruity wine is great for a Netflix and chill night or some hold me, let’s Hulu.

### **The Director’s Merlot, Frances Ford Coppola Winery**

Coppola has been in the wine game for a while. His wines tend to be inspired by the art of storytelling and filmmaking, so they have unique names to reflect that. The Director’s Merlot is a juicy and succulent red that is a good example of a wine from Sonoma. Coppola has probably won more awards for his wine than his films. This Merlot is perfect to enjoy while relaxing by the fire and having a nice conversation with your love.

**Related Link:** [Top Places Celebrity Couples Go For Date Night](#)

### **Drew’s Red Blend Pinot Noir, Barrymore Wine**

Drew Barrymore is the perfect celebrity to have a wine. She knows how to have fun and live it up. She created her line of wines with the help of the California-based Carmel Road Winery. Her red blend is meant for every day sipping. Since it has notes of tobacco, spice, and fruit, it would be good paired with meat or something from a slow cooker. Long story short, when you are home for a nice, quiet meal with your partner, this is the perfect wine to choose.

*For more Love & Libations date night ideas and [celebrity couple](#) predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).*

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# Celebrity Couple Predictions: Ariel Winter, Bradley Cooper and David Foster



B

y [Shoshi](#)

In the latest celebrity news, three famous couples have caught the public's attention. One of which is new celebrity couple is stepping out in young Hollywood, while a more seasoned couple is prepping for a celebrity baby, and another is just getting things started. . But who's stepping out this time around hand in hand? Join me as I look into the crystal ball of relationships and love. Below, I share my predictions for these [celebrity couples](#).

# Celebrity Couple Predictions: Celebrity Relationships That May or May Not Last

**Ariel Winter and Levi Meaden:** Looks like there's a hot young couple alert, because Ariel Winter and Levi Meaden have stepped out on the red carpet together making their celebrity relationship official after months of speculation. Winter is very smitten with Meaden, though it's not hard to blame her. He's cute, tall, and he's quite charming. She's a great catch as well. Both of them want to experience a fun, yet respectful relationship. Winter has no time for childish men. Being wise beyond her years makes it a bit difficult for her to find man that she connects with. That's where Meaden comes in. He has no problem with a smart woman whose fiery so they are a good match. Fun is the theme of this celebrity couple and they may even learn a thing or two about love. After Meaden, Winter will end up dating an older man.

**Related Link:** [New Celebrity Couple Ariel Winter & Boyfriend Levi Meaden Make Red Carpet Debut](#)

**Bradley Cooper and Irina Shayk:** With a baby on the way and rumors swirling, Cooper and Shayk have everyone wondering if they are engaged. Shayk has a new mystery ring on her finger. But since she hasn't had the baby yet, it's safe to say that it's probably not a push gift. My psychic senses say that they plan to have a secret celebrity wedding to seal the deal. Cooper is all about family and he thinks it's time for him to settle down now that a baby is on the way. He wants to give married life a try since he's seen it work for other longtime Hollywood bachelors. Babies bring about happiness and emotions so it's a wonderful time for Cooper and Shayk. While I would love to say it will be all unicorns and rainbows for these two, that's not the case. They are a bit like a roller

coaster. There's a lot of up and down. Right now things are up due to the excitement of the baby. There needs to be a discussion about that each one of them wants in a marriage or they will last about three years tops.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Baby: Bradley Cooper Is Spotted on a Run Post Girlfriend's Pregnancy Reveal](#)

**David Foster and Christie Brinkley:** Looks like David Foster and Christie Brinkley are spending some quality time together. Actually it's more like there's been one date or two. However with celebrities, one date could mean an engagement in two months. It's safe to say that Foster has a thing for models since some of his ex-wives were models or beauty queens. While Brinkley seems to like a man with some musical talent since her longest marriage was to singer Billy Joel. This isn't Foster or Brinkley's first time at the rodeo, both of them have a lot of relationships under their belt. If they get married it will be the fifth wedding between each. Maybe the fifth time's the charm? Hold up on the celebrity wedding invitations. This relationship is simply two good looking, age-appropriate people enjoying each other. Marriage does not look like it's in the cards. That is not to say that this romance won't last. It's always nice to have a "maintenance person" on speed dial when one is looking for love. I predict that we won't ever know all the details of their romance, they will keep us guessing.

**Related Link:** [Yolanda Foster Files for Celebrity Divorce from David Foster](#)

*For more information on Shoshi click [here](#).*

**What celebrity couples do you want to see predictions for next? Tell us in the comments below!**