

Host a 'Bachelorette' Viewing Party



By Andrea Woroch

I don't watch much television, aside from an hour of news to go along with my morning latte. Yet there's something about this sappy, reality dating show that makes me scramble to the couch every Monday evening. Though I hate to admit it, I eagerly awaited the premiere of season eight of 'The Bachelorette' as America's favorite past contestant and single mom, Emily Maynard, took the stage in her quest for love.

Though Emily weeded out some of the weirdos in the first episode, there's still plenty of drama, tears, exotic destinations and heartfelt goodbyes to enjoy. So whether you're looking to gossip with some gal pals over your favorite

eligible bachelor or you simply have nothing better to do on Monday nights, consider hosting a 'Bachelorette' viewing party, using these tips to make it memorable and fun.

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1. Create an Entrance: What's a 'Bachelorette' party without any roses? To set the mood, hand out red roses to each guest upon arrival. Depending on the number of friends attending, you may consider red carnations as an inexpensive alternative. Otherwise, pick up some faux flowers from a nearby craft supplier.

2. Dress to the Nines: Request Rose Ceremony-appropriate attire. Ladies should come dressed in fancy gowns, and men should sport a suit or coat with a tie.

Related: [First Date Outfit Ideas: Dinner and Drinks](#)

3. Be Refreshing: 'Bachelor' and 'Bachelorette' contestants are always sipping on a cocktail, enjoying a glass of wine or toasting with champagne, so decide what drink you'd like to serve at your party. Ask guests to chip in with their favorite beverage to keep costs under control, and pick up inexpensive plastic flute glasses from the dollar store.

4. Serve Exotic Food: In addition to festive cocktails, you may also consider offering ethnic finger foods based on the show's upcoming destination. Check out Pinterest for recipe ideas, and load up your supermarket loyalty card with mobile coupons from CouponSherpa.com to score savings.

5. Drink Up: Reality TV drinking games are an exciting way to get your friends into the show, especially those who could care less about which bachelor is sent home. Identify a common word or phrase that gets overused by a specific character, and ask everyone take a sip of his or her drink each time it is said.

6. Vote On It: Ask guests to vote on which bachelors they think will be picked for a one-on-one date and which guys will be sent home during the Rose Ceremony. Make sure that anyone who read a spoiler blog keeps his or her lips sealed!

Related: [Date Idea: Couple Up with Game Night](#)

7. Try Trivia: During commercials, quiz your guests on their '[Bachelor](#)' and 'Bachelorette' IQ. Grab details about past episodes and contestants on TV.com, and create a trivia game using index cards.

8. Offer Goody Bags: You can't play games without handing out prizes to the winners. Keep it cheap with inexpensive treats like candy and candles for the goody bags.

Andrea Woroch is a nationally-recognized consumer and money-saving expert who helps consumers live on less without radically changing their lifestyles. From smart spending tips to personal finance advice, she transforms everyday consumers into savvy shoppers. Woroch has been featured on top news outlets such as Good Morning America, NBC's Today, MSNBC, New York Times, Kiplinger Personal Finance, CNNMoney and many more. You can follow her on Twitter for daily savings advice and tips.

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9 Frugal Dating Tips for Cost-Conscious Lovebirds



By Andrea Woroch

Summer is the season for romance as singles and couples seek magical moments amid the sunny and hot weather. However, creating a magical date can be a nerve-wrecking experience, depending on the dating situation. Thinking about what to wear, wondering if he/she will like you or stressing over what you will talk about is enough to make someone go crazy. With so much to think about, the last thing you need to worry about is your wallet.

Lucky for cost-conscious lovebirds, there are plenty of ways to spark a romantic connection without blowing your budget. Here are nine ways to enjoy a memorable yet inexpensive summer date:

1. Time-sharing babysitting: Finding a competent and dependable babysitter is often an expensive nightmare. It's

almost enough to make a parent want to stay home. When you think about it, however, many others face the same situation.

Why not swap services with neighbors, co-workers, family or friends for a free night or afternoon out? Otherwise, consider sharing one babysitter among a couple of families and splitting the cost. Consider searching SitterCity.com for vetted babysitters in your area who will match your needs and budget.

2. Avoid alcohol: Even if you find a cut-rate meal (early bird special, anyone?), a couple drinks can greatly add to the bill. You might want to hit a restaurant that doesn't serve booze or make it an afternoon date. Otherwise, plan to drink and dine at a restaurant or bar that offers happy hour prices which is usually in the early evening. You can enjoy most drinks and food at very reasonable prices.

3. Date with gift cards: Buy a gift card at a discount from sites such as CardAvenue.com. They will save you anywhere from five to 50 percent on restaurants and other entertainment activities.

4. Plan a freebie: Dating doesn't always have to mean dinner and a movie. Some activities – like hiking, biking or visiting farmers' markets – don't cost a dime and tend to reveal more about your partner than a standard date.

5. DIY date night: Create your own dinner with a picnic in a local park. For a romantic touch, pack portable speakers with a pre-mixed playlist on your iPod as well as a bottle of wine and a few chocolate-covered strawberries for dessert. Not only is this DIY date an inexpensive alternative to a night on the town, but you'll score extra brownie points for taking the time to plan this special event.

6. Get smart advice from smartphones: Use your mobile phone to find local deals and date ideas. The Date Night iPhone app for example will help you find unique, interesting and

affordable events that are sure to impress. The app randomly selects a “thing to do” for your next evening on the town, some of which won’t bust your budget.

7. Dial into daily deals: Groupon, Living Social and other group-buying coupon companies offer some great deals – up to 50 percent off – on such entertainment experiences as wine tastings, boat tours, museums and comedy clubs. If you’re worried about appearing “cheap,” redeem the offer when your date is in the restroom.

8. Go cultural: Many libraries and coffee shops offer free poetry readings and musical entertainment. Look for art gallery tours or free museum days to improve your cultural IQ while impressing your date.

9. Create a thrifty movie night: Instead of dishing out \$20 for two movie tickets plus cost of popcorn, candy and soda, plan a romantic movie night at home. Pick-up a free DVD from your local library or a new release for just a dollar from Redbox. Then dim the lights and serve some freshly popped popcorn or your date’s favorite candy for a theater-like experience.

Consumer Savings Expert Andrea Woroch has been featured as a media expert source on NBC’s Today Show, FOX & Friends, MSNBC, ABC News NOW and many more. For more savings tips follow @AndreaWoroch.