

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



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

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

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

Cocktails for February Date Nights

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 Fliritini was also in the mix. All it takes is three ingredients. Enjoy with your girl squad while binging on the show.

Ingredients:

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

Directions:

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

pitcher.

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

Best Dressed Celebrity Arrivals





Emma Stone

Of course, the elegant Emma Stone makes our list of best dressed celebrity arrivals! Here, she attends the 'Irrational Man' Los Angeles premiere in a sundress that's casual yet classy. Photo: David Gabber / PRPhotos.com

Queen Elizabeth II Invites Kate Middleton's Parents to Join the Royal Christmas





By Nicole Weintraub

Queen Elizabeth II is breaking with tradition by inviting Kate Middleton's parents to the royal Christmas gathering at Sandringham Estate, according to UsMagazine.com. Prior to now, only royals have been invited to attend. However, the queen is hoping that by extending the invitation to the pregnant Duchess's family, it will encourage her to attend as well if she feels up to it. Recently, Middleton had been hospitalized for severe morning sickness. Since being released from the hospital, she has been taking it easy with husband Prince William by her side, taking it day by day. Middleton will decide the evening before of the morning of if she will attend the holiday nuptials based on her health.

What are some ways to involve your in-laws in your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

We've all heard the dreaded rumors regarding the in-laws. Though, believe it or not having a good relationship with your partner's family can strengthen your own relationship. Cupid

has some advice:

1. Invite them over: Nothing will bring you closer with your in-laws than inviting them over for dinner. The more time you spend with them, the stronger your relationship with them will become.

2. Ask them to babysit: If you have kids, ask them to babysit for them. This will give them a chance to be more involved in your lives as well as your kids' lives.

3. Call them: If your in-laws live far away and you don't get to see them too often, give them a call every now and then. Just by showing them that you are thinking of them will mean the world to them and your partner for showing an effort.

How do you involve your in-laws in your relationship? Share your stories with us in the comments below!

Prince William Discusses Queen Elizabeth's Wedding Advice





It seems as if people are still talking about the unforgettable royal wedding that took place on April 29, 2011, between Prince William and Kate Middleton. The royal couple did not plan their big event alone, however. Middleton took inspiration from Princess Diana's wedding and William took advice from his grandma, Queen Elizabeth. According to UsMagazine.com, the Prince was happy to have the Queen's help. Although he revised her original recommended guest list, he did take to heart her suggestion on what he should wear on the big day.

How do you include your family in your wedding planning process?

Cupid's Advice:

Weddings aren't just for the bride and groom anymore. Families everywhere want to be a part of the big day. Instead of turning into bridezilla, thank them for their help by including them in the small stuff:

1. Suggestions aren't final: Allowing your family members to make recommendations lets them feel helpful, but it doesn't

mean that you have to say “yes” to every one.

2. Designate jobs: Having help when you need it is valuable. Give jobs to each family member, whether it’s making decorations or helping you fill out thank you cards. Be grateful for their willingness to pitch in.

3. Let them participate: Bring your friends and family along for support to less intimate parts of the wedding planning process. Things like food tasting, choosing save the dates, and visiting venues are great options.

Has a family member tried to take over your wedding? Share your experience below.

Prince William Declines Wearing Wedding Ring





Prince William and Kate Middleton are bucking tradition once again, this time with the Prince's refusal to wear a wedding band after he's married. According to [People](#), Middleton is going to stick to tradition and sport a ring made from a tiny bit of Welsh gold, which was presented as a gift to Prince William from Queen Elizabeth. A spokeswoman from the palace says, "There is only going to be one ring, in accordance with the couple's wishes."

Should you wear a wedding ring?

Cupid's Advice:

Traditions are nothing to scoff at, as some are there for a reason. Others, however, hold symbolism that isn't necessarily prevalent in this day and age. Cupid has some things to consider when deciding whether to wear a wedding band:

- 1. Sentimental value:** If a wedding band holds a lot of meaning to you and you'd feel uncomfortable not wearing one, that's nothing of which to be ashamed. Do what makes you comfortable in your beliefs.

2. Trust: You shouldn't doubt your partner's trustworthiness if you plan on marrying him or her, but there's no doubt that wearing a wedding ring helps ward off others who are single and looking.

3. Physical comfort: Sometimes it's simply uncomfortable to wear rings, especially for most men who aren't used to the feeling. If you're in a profession where a ring would get in the way or you just don't like the feel of a ring on your finger, consider abstaining from the tradition.

Prince William at War with the Queen Over Wedding Plans





By Vicky Sullivan of aspiringsocialitenyc.com

According to E! Online, the War of the Roses has once again taken to the British Isles. After details of the much-anticipated royal wedding between Prince William and the lovely Kate Middleton were announced, Queen Elizabeth II was less than enthused. In fact, she was livid. Apparently, her royal highness learned of her grandson's wedding plans just as the rest of us did, by watching the news. The traditional matriarch steeped in the tradition of the British crown was enraged at the couple's plans for Middleton to arrive at Westminster Abbey in a car rather than the traditional horse drawn carriage. According to witnesses of her breakdown, the Queen made it very clear that buffets have no place at Buckingham Palace. Though the royal wedding craze rightfully glamorizes Prince William and Middleton as the world's most fascinating couple, this family feud makes the impending royal wedding almost familiar. As the bride and groom stress over the guest list, an overbearing grandmother has already pulled the plug on their breakfast buffet and dance party. Royalty or not, weddings can be a royal pain. Perhaps, the couple should do away with their trendy plans or it's off with their

heads. Plus, the Tower of London isn't much of a honeymoon suite!

How do you keep your family from messing with your wedding plans?

Cupid's Advice:

Anyone who has been involved in planning a wedding knows how difficult it is to please everyone involved. People tend to forget that weddings are really about the couple getting married and less about the flower arrangements and catering plans. Cupid has some advice on how to handle the situation diplomatically:

- 1. Explain your reasoning:** Your close family and friends may lay off for a bit if you explain why the details of your wedding are important to you. Perhaps you're trying to save money or are honoring family traditions.
- 2. Remind them that it's your wedding:** Sometimes critics just need a reality check. Once you remind them that this is a celebration of you and the person you love, they should back off.
- 3. Meet in the middle:** It may be necessary to compromise with family members, especially if they are contributing the festivities financially.