Expert Love Advice: The Perfect Excuse for a Valentine's Day Getaway





By David Wygant

If you're thinking of traveling with your new woman, why not plan a weekend trip for Valentine's Day? There are so many great deals during this special holiday. Don't make the classic mistake of looking to the countryside. Everyone thinks that's the most romantic place to go, but on Valentine's Day, those bed and breakfasts are swarming with couples.

Expert Love Advice for a Valentine's Day Vacation

Instead, to follow my <u>expert love advice</u>, consider the business districts in your local city. Some of the nicest hotels are situated in the business districts, and on Valentine's Day, those hotels are often empty. There will be a ton of weekend specials you won't be able to resist — I'm talking four or five star hotels for half the price! Yes, it might be a little quiet down there, but isn't that exactly what you're craving for you and your significant other?

Related Link: How to Plan a Guy Friendly Valentine's Day

For your romantic weekend, you'll have a big bed, room service, and easy access to recent movies. Usually, there is a great spa, a huge gym, and a top-notch restaurant in the hotel too. After all, they're geared towards the business traveler who wants to feel absolutely spoiled when they are away.

How to Use a Special Getaway to Learn About Your Relationship and Love

After you book your room, what do you plan for Valentine's Day weekend? Well, that depends on what you want. When I travel with somebody for the first time, I'm taking a look at how spontaneous they are. How do we relate to each other in closed quarters? It's important to ask these questions because, up until this point in your relationship and love, you've probably spent all of your time in a comfort zone.

Maybe she spent the night at your place, or you spent the night at her house, but either way, you've been in familiar territory. When you take somebody out of the familiar, you get an idea of how they are when their things aren't around. How

much time does she spend with you? How much time is spent staring at her phone? Is she talking to or texting with her friends over the course of the weekend? These are things you don't really think about, but a lot of women are social media junkies — they're on it 24/7. I remember when I went away with this woman for the very first time years ago. We had sex, and it was great. I went to the bathroom. I came back literally 35 seconds later, and she was on Twitter.

Related Link: <u>Dating Advice: How Do You Make a Woman Feel Most</u> Beautiful?

The first time you "live" with a person — even just for a weekend — they reveal their true nature. Up until this trip, they've been on their best behavior, but they're about to expose themselves. Are they high maintenance? Are they low maintenance? Do they travel with a lot of things? Do they have trouble leaving their routine? You won't know these intimate details until you take them away.

I believe that, in order to have a strong relationship and love, you need to take somebody on a getaway as quickly as possible. So this Valentine's Day, invest in a weekend trip! Check out who she is and what she's all about. Get an idea of what your future's going to look like if you stay together.

For more expert love advice from David, click here.

Relationship Expert Shares Hot Valentine's Day Gifts





By Kris Schoels

6 million — The number of people who expect or are planning a marriage proposal.

1.9 billion — The amount people will spend on flowers alone.

53% — Women who would end their relationship and love if they didn't get something for Valentines Day

With these statistics, it's no wonder we get crazy about a seemingly harmless day in February. As a relationship expert, I think Valentine's Day should be about managing expectations and making sure you both are on the same page about gifts and celebrating.

Here are some ideas for Valentine's

Day presents...and a few things you should never get for the girl in your life!

1. Gym membership or workout gear: Is that ever a good idea?

I say yes, but only if your partner is already into working out in the first place. Have a Pilates lover? Get her a class pack to her favorite studio. Significant other running in a marathon late this year? Buy her some running clothes. Dating someone who is not into the gym or fitness at all? This is not the time to introduce them to the fitness scene. I can quarantee it will cause some hurt feelings and self-doubt.

Related Link: Dating Advice for How to Manage Valentine's Day Expectations

2. What about jewelry (or any item that isn't a ring) in a small box?

I am just going to put this out there: If they do not already have a ring on their finger, girls want to be engaged! You don't have to be a relationship expert to figure this one out. If you have been together a while, they will probably (even if you have told them you are not going to) think that you are going to propose on Valentine's Day. Do NOT, under any circumstances, give them a gift in a small box *unless* it is an engagement ring.

3. Go the traditional route and give flowers.

Maybe some people will disagree with me, but I feel like you can't ever lose with flowers. All girls love flowers, and it doesn't matter to me if they are straight from the grocery store or arranged by the best florist in town. Flowers bring a smile to anyone's face.

4. What about lingerie?

I'm on the fence about lingerie, as I think it's more of a gift women get for the men in their life. I say, if you are a guy, stick to a nice silk robe instead of a lacy and racy underwear set. Robes are safe — they're pretty, useful, and appreciated.

Related Link: Love Advice: 3 Signs He's the Right Guy to Be Your Valentine

5. Avoid a gift certificate.

These are not personal enough and seem like a cop out. Save them for other occasions, even birthdays — but not the most romantic day of the year.

6. Don't have money to spend?

Cook a nice meal for her (or together) and give her a sweet love note. You don't have to spend money to make a girl happy; just some time together and attention is enough for your relationship and love.

Founder, blogger, wife, Kris Schoels began The Chic Wife based on the idea of creating an ongoing dialogue inspired by the unique juxtaposition of her peanut farm-life upbringing to her now married, everyday city lifestyle. Beyond her blog, Schoels has been seen on The Today Show, Insider Edition, Access Hollywood, Dr. Oz, Hallmark Channel, Fox&Friends, The Better Show, just to name a few while also having been featured in Shape, Self, Martha Stewart and OK! Magazine with her chic tips and budget tricks.

5 Valentine's Day Celebrity Engagements





By Maria Darbenzio and Molly Jacob

Valentine's Day is the holiday of relationships and love, so what better way to celebrate than getting down on one knee, popping open the ring box, and asking your partner to spend a lifetime with you? While some may find proposing on VDay to be cheesy, these celebrity couples do not agree.

Check out these five Valentine's Day celebrity engagements:

1. Christina Aguilera and Matthew Rutler: On Valentine's Day

last year, the singer revealed her celebrity engagement to her film producer boyfriend by tweeting a photo of a massive diamond on her left hand. This celebrity couple met on the set of *Burlesque* in 2010, as she was going through a divorce from Jordan Bratman (a divorce that, ironically enough, was finalized on Valentine's Day in 2011). Looks like Rutler "Ain't No Other Man" in Aguilera's eyes!

Related Link: Christina Aguilera Welcomes a Baby Girl with Matt Rutler

- 2. Dave Annable and Odette Yustman: In 2010, Annable, most known for his role on *Brothers and Sisters*, proposed to his co-star girlfriend of two years. He proposed at the place they first fell in love and had their parents waiting for them at the hotel restaurant. The actress was surprised by the proposal and excited that she got to share it immediately with her parents and future in-laws. This celebrity engagement did not last long the twosome got married eight months later!
- 3. Vince Vaugn and Kyla Weber: For this couple, the engagement had been discussed months before it actually happened. Little did Weber know, her comedian boyfriend did not want to pass up the opportunity of proposing on Valentine's Day. Not only was it a romantic holiday, but it was also a date that he said he would always remember. In 2009, Vaughn got down on one knee and proposed to the Canadian real estate agent. She said yes, and this celebrity couple is now married with two children.

Related Link: Dealing with a Valentine's Day Breakup

- 4. Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart: Actor and producer Ford decided to take his relationship with Flockhart to the next level in 2009. Prior to that Valentine's Day, this celebrity couple had been together for seven year. When Ford asked her to marry him, it's reported that she was taken by complete surprise.
- 5. Christina Applegate and Martyn LeNoble: The Anchorman star

and her Dutch bassist beau got engaged on Valentine's Day in 2010. This celebrity love story gets sweeter. According to the Daily Mail, Christina gives credit to LeNoble for saving her life after she had a double mastectomy in 2008. The celebrity couple wed three years later in February 2013.

What are your thoughts on a Valentine's Day proposal? Share in the comments below!

Relationship Advice: The 8 Best Budget-Friendly Valentine's Gifts





By Jude Bijou MA MFT

Lots of us, particularly males, fret about what to do for Valentine's Day. Need some relationship advice? Chocolate and roses are nice, but not exactly creative or even heartfelt.

Sexy lingerie or a romantic dinner may be fun, but is this what she really wants?

I talk to many clients who express genuine anxiety about Valentine's Day, and this is what I tell them: Don't get caught up in peer pressure or commercialism associated with Valentine's Day. Instead, think of it as a time to honor your love partner, and to let this person know you value, respect, and admire him or her. With that as your intention, giving the "gift" is actually very easy. Best of all, it won't cost you a cent.

Take some relationship advice and use these 8 gifts that will win the heart of your Valentine.

- 1. Put it in writing: Write a list of qualities that you appreciate about your loved one, and put those words in a card, poem, or a short video of you reading the list.
- 2. Stir up memories: Jot down 5 or so of your favorite, most precious memories of your partner and the time you've spent together, and convey them verbally.

Related Link: <u>'Single Ladies' Star Denise Vasi Shares Her</u> Valentine's Day Plans

- **3. Grant a wish:** Put yourself in your lover's shoes and think of a chore or an activity that would bring a smile or ease some stress. Then make it happen.
- **4. Spend some time:** Arrange an outing to a favorite place you share, maybe a hike or a stroll around a special neighborhood. Or just take the evening off from your normal routine and cook a favorite dinner.
- **5.** Be emotionally generous: Refrain from making negative jokes about Valentine's Day or your loved one's views about the day. Regardless of how you feel, only say positive things.

Related Link: Valentine's Day Advice: Nine Gift Ideas for the Frugalista

- **6. Lend an ear:** Set up a cozy place to talk and ask your loved one questions about life, dreams, wishes, and feelings. Offer to "just listen" while he or she talks and shares. Don't interrupt.
- 7. Clean the slate: Valentine's Day is as good a day as any to let go of any grudges you're holding and to accept your loved

one, flaws and all. This will help you genuinely say, "I love you just as you are."

8. Fall in love anew: Allow yourself to fall in love again. Conjure memories and feelings of a time you were full of feelings of love for your Valentine, and keep your focus there. Recall the way you felt when you first met.

Jude Bijou, MA, MFT, is a respected psychotherapist, professional educator, and workshop leader. Her theory of Attitude Reconstruction® evolved over the course of more than 30 years working with clients as a licensed marriage and family therapist, and is the subject of her award-winning book, Attitude Reconstruction: A Blueprint for Building a Better Life. Learn more at www.attitudereconstruction.com.

Love Advice: 3 Signs He's the Right Guy to Be Your Valentine





By Molly Jacob and Suzanne Casamento for Galtime.com

Valentine's Day is like the New Year's Eve of relationships and love. There's all this pressure to have an amazing evening, maybe even the date of a lifetime. That's thanks to the amazing Valentine's Day dates in unrealistic rom-coms. But before you get all caught up in all the hype, it's important to consider who you're going to spend the holiday with this year. So instead of settling for just anyone's company, set yourself up for success by spending Valentine's Day with the right guy.

Are you still in the market for a Valentine? Here are some signs he's the right guy to be your Valentine's Day date:

1. He gives you butteries: Yes, that reference rings middle-school bells, but thankfully, butterflies don't disappear once you become an adult. When it comes to spending Valentine's Day

with someone, he should be someone you really like. First and foremost, because you want to enjoy it, but also because you don't want to spend such a big holiday with someone you're not truly interested in. It could be misleading and ultimately hurtful for your date. With relationships and love, if you are not excited about your date, you can be sure that that's a warning sign you may not go on many other dates with him.

Related Link: <u>5 Celebrity Couples Who Got Engaged on Valentine's Day</u>

2. He treats you with respect: This love advice sounds like a total no-brainer, but many of us have felt the whoosh of butterflies around a guy who doesn't even know we're in the room. In order to have a spectacular Valentine's Day celebration, it's important that he's equally as crazy about you. Determine his level of interest by the way he treats you. Does he call and text you often? Does he listen when you speak? Does he ask questions about you? Does he remember details about what you say? Those are all signs that he respects you.

If you're still not sure after answering those questions, flip them and ask yourself the following questions. Do you always have to contact him first? Does he seem distracted when you talk? Does he only talk about himself? If someone disappoints you on a regular date, rest assured he will disappoint you on love's biggest night of the year, too.

Related Link: How to Get Through Valentine's Day Being Single

3. He knows how to have fun: When it comes to a big holiday like Valentine's Day, fun is definitely the "it" factor that will take an ordinary date over the top. Sure, V-Day is all about relationships and love, but don't let that take precedent over just having a good time. Choose a date who is relaxed, positive, and can make you laugh. Whether you enjoy a romantic dinner, go ice-skating, or see a play, your

Valentine's Day celebration is only going to be amazing if your date is someone you have fun with when you're out (or if you stay in). Dinner at the best restaurant in town is good, but a date who makes you laugh will elevate your chocolate mousse from tasty to downright dreamy.

If you find that none of your prospects fit the date criteria above, ditch the date idea and plan an evening doing something you love. Don't let cheesy rom-coms make you think you have to spend this day with someone just so you're not alone. Don't worry, Valentine's Day will come again next year.

Cupid's wants to know about your Valentine's Day plans! How did you know your date was the one to spend this holiday of love with?

Expert Dating Advice for How to Manage Valentine's Day Expectations





By Joan Barnard

When it seems like every woman you know is getting the royal treatment on Valentine's Day, it's easy to feel disappointed when the man in your life does not meet your expectations—and you wouldn't be the only one.

According to a new study published by the National Retail Federation, Americans are expected to spend over \$18.9 billion on Valentine's Day gifts this year.

With jewelry commercials on loop and Valentine's Day card nostalgia in full swing, it's no surprise that people feel the pressure to spend—and that the spending adds up to almost \$150 for the average person.

Related Link: Relationship Expert Shares Hot Valentine's Day Gifts

Spare yourself (and your guy) Valentine's Day stress by following these three pieces of expert dating advice. They're sure to keep your expectations in check:

- 1. Let him know how much (or little) you care about Valentine's Day: Men understand that women have expectations for Valentine's Day, but many have a hard time distinguishing just how high (or low) those expectations are. If it's your first Valentine's Day together, give him a heads up that you're looking for an evening fit for a Hollywood couple, or if you'd rather just stay home, let him know—the earlier the better.
- 2. Make suggestions: Saying, "I want to do something fun on Valentine's Day" won't cut it; it's too subjective. Making concrete suggestions about what you want will set the tone. You might say, "Wouldn't a couples massages be fun?" or "This would be the perfect time to try that cute French restaurant." Sharing suggestions will give him some parameters: how much to spend, how romantic the gift should be, etc.
- 3. Make sure your suggestions match the level of your relationship: If you have suggestions in mind, make sure they match where you are in your relationship and love. If you're expecting a card and receive a diamond necklace, you'll feel overwhelmed—the same way your partner would feel is he's expecting to give you a card and you ask for a diamond necklace. Be realistic. Save expensive gifts for your serious established relationships.

Related Link: Love Advice: 3 Signs He's the Right Guy to Be Your Valentine

When it comes to your relationship and love, don't let one day decide how things will or won't progress—think about the big picture. Does your partner value you? Do they value your happiness? Do you feel consistently happy with him? My expert dating advice would say that if the answer is "yes," a bouquet

of flowers-or nothing at all-won't change that.

Joan Barnard is the resident dating and relationship expert and blog editor for Zoosk, the online dating site home to 29+ million users worldwide and the #1 mobile dating app. She authors the weekly Joan Actually advice column, responding to dating and relationship questions from 14+ million readers who are in, out of, and between relationships. She hosts a weekly dating advice series for nearly 9,000+ Zoosk YouTube subscribers and also records 15-second dating advice spots on Instagram.

How to Get Through Valentine's Day Single





By Elizabeth Kim and Molly Jacob

You check the calendar and realize February 14th is coming up sooner than you'd like. You wonder if you can call in sick or at least stay away from social media all day so you don't have to deal with the cheesy Instagram photos your friends will inevitably post about their significant others. But, before you burrow into bed so that you don't have to deal with the inevitable love parade, Cupid has some advice on how to get through Valentine's Day single, unscathed, and maybe even happy.

While it seems like Valentine's Day is all about relationships and love, check out Cupid's tips to help you enjoy this day even if you are single:

1. Take part: Remember in elementary school when everybody

would pass around tiny boxes of conversation hearts and foldup cardboard Valentine's Day cards? Distribute goodies to coworkers and friends! Whether or not you buy bulk cards from your local drugstore or personalize each and every gift with great detail, not only will you be bringing a smile to someone else, it will serve as a good distraction from all the couplethemed activities surrounding you.

2. Ignore the holiday: February 14th is just another day in your week, so plan a day of fun activities that have nothing to do with relationships and love! You might decide to take the subway to a part of the city you haven't been to before so you can explore cafes and parks. Or, plan a day at the spa followed by lunch at your favorite Italian bistro. Whatever it is, don't use V-Day as an excuse to be miserable — have fun with it!

Related Link: Dealing with a Valentine's Day Breakup

- 3. Band together: You're certainly not the only single girl this Valentine's Day. Have a pseudo date night with a friend or spend the day with all your fellow single ladies. Have an old school slumber party, complete with delicious snacks and trashy magazines. Misery loves company, so even if you decide that you all just want to mope, at least you won't be moping alone. Sure you might shed some tears, but you will end up sharing a lot of laughs.
- 4. Treat yourself: Make this day all about you instead of relationships and love. Go ahead and buy that Michael Kors bag you have been saving up for, or splurge on a fancy manicure. You will be distracting yourself from all the love in the air while rewarding yourself for surviving the day!

Related Link: Making the Most of Valentine's Day Even If You're Unhappy

5. Remind yourself: This one is the toughest but ultimately you just have to remind yourself that it is just another day

on the calendar. You shouldn't equate going on a date or being in a relationship with self-worth. And here's a bonus tip: Valentine's Day chocolates are super cheap on February 15, so stock up on delicious treats as soon as this day of love is over!

How do you get through Valentine's Day when you're single? Tell us in the comments below!

Product Review: Have a Valentine's Day Movie Night, Thanks to Hallmark Gold Crown and Feeln!





This product review is sponsored by Hallmark Gold Crown and Feeln.

By Jenna Bagcal

With Valentine's Day a little more than a week away, you're probably planning a special night out with your sweetheart that includes flowers, champagne, and a reservation at an expensive restaurant. But your festivities for this date don't have to include leaving the house. Instead, use this product review as inspiration and consider having a romantic evening indoors! From now until Feb. 14, participating Hallmark Gold Crown stores are offering a month of free movies from the movie streaming service Feeln with the purchase of a Valentine's Day card. This offer is available in-stores only while supplies last!

Valentine's Day Product Review: Feeln

Feeln has a wide selection of Valentine's Day movies that are sure to please you and your partner this year. From Academy Award-winning films to classic Hollywood movies, they offer a wide variety of choices for you and your loved one. The streaming movie website also showcases exclusive short films and Hallmark Hall of Fame movies that can't be seen anywhere else.

If your guy is into comedies, surprise him with a home cooked meal of his favorite lasagna and a viewing of Ferris Bueller's Day Off or Click. If you want to set a romantic mood, dim the lights, fill the room with candles, and play Sleepless in Seattle or Big Fish. Whatever your preferences. Either way, don't forget to pop the cork on your best bottle of wine! Feeln is sure to have a film that's perfect for you and your beau.

The movies on Feeln can be streamed on your computers, but for a more comfortable viewing experience, this service can also be accessed on iPhones and iPads, Android devices, Apple TV, Roku players, Xbox 360, and on your television. No matter where you are, you can enjoy a movie! Just grab a blanket and a big bowl of popcorn (or Valentine's Day chocolates), and snuggle up with your love.

Visit your participating Hallmark store to receive a voucher for a month of free movies with Feeln. The purchase of a Valentine's Day card is required. Ends February 14, 2015.

Celebrity Interview & Giveaway: Florist David

Goldstein Says to "Go the Traditional Route" for Valentine's Day





This post is sponsored by BloomNation.

By Shannon Seibert

Named by *Entrepreneur* as a Top 5 Silicon Beach Startup to Watch, BloomNation caters to an exclusive and extensive clientele. The florists create and sell unique and hand-crafted original designs. More specifically, My Beverly Hills Florist, owned by celebrity florist David Goldstein, guarantees arrangements that stay away from the cliche, cookie cutter options. In 2004, he opened his floral studios in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, and since then, he

has catered to some big names in Hollywood, including Dennis Quaid, Russell Simmons, and OWN (the Oprah Winfrey Network). Business flourished due to his European flair, contemporary trends, and stunning style of floral expressions for all occasions and affairs. In our celebrity interview, Goldstein shares his best dating advice and offered his expertise to ensure that your relationships and love thrive on Valentine's Day!

Florist Shares Dating Advice in Celebrity Interview

During the season of love, the floral industry is quite busy! There are a lot of criteria to consider when choosing what flowers to purchase, but there's one major focal point according to Goldstein. "People know about color," he says. "They know about reds, hot pinks, purples, and all of the other passionate colors. These are the colors of flowers that people are most likely to pick." For first dates, people tend to stick to light pinks and softer colors since they're generally safer. "And for new relationships, I would go for hot pinks, specifically peonies," the floral expert advises.

Related Link: Expert Dating Advice: Valentine's Day Tips

For Valentine's Day, though, he recommends a time-honored flower: "Roses are very common, but they are always classy. The holiday is all about love, so I would definitely go the traditional route," he says.

If you're still struggling with making a decision, Goldstein encourages you to consider your loved one's personality and tastes. "Every flower, in my opinion, is beautiful, but everyone is different," he shares. "English garden roses are definitely my favorite because they're really hard to get your hands on."

The florist agrees that flowers are the go-to gift for women, but this begs the most important question of this celebrity interview: Do men want to receive flowers too? Goldstein thinks so! "Calalillies and darker colors are very manly," he reveals.

No matter what, go with your gut when selecting the perfect arrangement for your love. "Stay away from daisies and carnations," he says. "Otherwise, you can pick out any flower you want, and it will be appreciated."

What Flowers Do Celebrities Prefer?

Being centered in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills has its perks, thanks to the many famous residents! This florist has covered a wide variety of events from celebrity weddings to baby showers, and some are more unusual than others. "I did the wedding for George Pajon Jr. of the Black Eyed Peas in Mexico," he excitedly reveals. "It was right after Valentine's Day, and we did thousands of red roses inside a cave!"

Related Link: <u>Former 'Bachelorette' Desiree Hartsock Shares</u> <u>Celebrity Wedding Photos</u>

It's no surprise that Goldstein prefers the one-of-a-kind events to the more traditional ones. "Large events are fun, but I personally like more unique occasions, like intimate parties," he explains. His newest project is for nearly 100 celebrities in the music and modeling industries. "Naomi Campbell might show up, and maybe Tyra Banks and Kim Kardashian too," he says about the super-exclusive event.

So what flowers do celebrities enjoy most? "They do a lot of white flowers, like gardenias, orchids, casablanca lilies, and peonies, which are rare," he shares. "We have a couple of celebrities who just don't do roses."

GIVEAWAY ALERT: One lucky reader will receive a \$50 coupon

code for BloomNation, just in time for Valentine's Day! To enter this giveaway, complete the form on our <u>Contact</u> page. Please select Giveaways in the What Can We Help You With? dropdown and include "Bloom Nation Giveaway" as well as your address and phone number in the Your Message box. The giveaway ends on Tuesday, February 10th at 5 p.m. EST. Good luck!

This giveaway is now closed. Thank you to all who participated!

For more on David's work with BloomNation and My Beverly Hills Florist, check out www.bloomnation.com.

Giveaway: Teleflora's Swirls of Love Bouquet is Perfect for Valentine's Day!





This post was sponsored by Teleflora.

By Shannon Seibert

We have arranged — so to speak — the perfect flower arrangement for you to give your partner on Valentine's Day! Show your honey that you care with the Swirls of Love bouquet (\$99.95) from Teleflora. One lucky winner will even receive this gorgeous gift just in time for the romantic festivities on February 14th! Check out our product review below for more details.

Teleflora Giveaway: Swirls of Love Bouquet

The Swirls of Love bouquet captures the essence of relationships and love through its traditional roses and classical flair. The deep red combined with the vibrant pink make these blooms the ideal present for your loved one. The red roses stand for love and romance, while the pink ones represent appreciation and gratitude — all things you want to tell your partner on this special occasion. The varying sizes

of the roses look beautiful in an artistic glass vase and help you convey feelings that you may not be able to put into words.

Men, flowers have always been the go-to gift for women. There's just something about Valentine's Day that goes hand in hand with flowers, so why stray from tradition? If your sweetheart is a worker-bee, send the bouquet to her office. Or if you live in separate cities, surprise her with them at her home; they'll serve as a sweet reminder that you're spending the special holiday together in spirit.

And women, men love to receive flowers too! A Swirls of Love bouquet will let your sweetheart know that you care and appreciate them. Cook a divine dinner for two, centering the roses in the middle of the table. The roses will set the mood, and he'll be in awe of the second prettiest sight in the room as you enjoy a romantic meal.

Teleflora has been matching the perfect florists to customers for 78 years. With the guarantee of fresh and blossoming flowers, the company markets to just about any occasion you can think of. All of their bouquets are hand-delivered, giving their services a genuine touch for Valentine's Day. Stop and smell the roses by entering our Swirls of Love giveaway from Teleflora now!

GIVEAWAY ALERT: One lucky reader will receive a Swirls of Love bouquet, just in time for Valentine's Day. To enter our giveaway, email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number BEFORE 5 p.m. EST on Monday, February 9th. In the subject line, please write "Teleflora Giveaway." You may enter the contest only once. Good luck!

This giveaway is now closed. Thank you to all who participated!

For the Teleflora Swirls of Love bouquet and other flower

Expert Dating Advice: Valentine's Day Tips





By Melanie Mar

Valentine's Day: the red heart holiday. It's guaranteed to keep restaurants busy and flower stores in business. Whether you're single, newly dating, or married, this heartfelt day can be a bit tricky to navigate. Depending on your expectations in the romance department, Valentine's Day can be an incredible hit or a massive miss. So how do you make sure

you and your partner feel special on a day dedicated to love? Read my expert dating advice below!

Expert Dating Advice to Consider Before Valentine's Day

If you're single: Being single on Valentine's Day is not uncommon, so take some comfort in the fact you're actually in good company on this hyper-focused heart holiday. As a relationship expert, I believe this is an excellent time to fall in love with yourself. If you prefer to be alone, pamper yourself with a hot bubble bath, music and some fine, quality chocolates. Or let someone else do the pampering and book a soothing massage at a relaxing spa. Take the time to treat yourself well and know that you're worth it.

Related Link: How to Get Through Valentine's Day Being Single

If the thought of being alone simply fills you with dread, then gather up your girlfriends and put on a fabulous dress. Head out to a sexy lounge bar, enjoy some playful flirting, and kick up your killer heels. Another fun idea is to host a "singles Valentine's Day party" at your place. Invite all your fellow singletons over to eat, drink, and be merry.

If you're newly dating: If you've just started dating someone, Valentine's Day can be a little awkward. What if you go all out and he doesn't acknowledge it? Yes, there are men out there who are oblivious to all the heart decorations in the shop windows or who "just don't get it." What if your expectations of the day are at a certain level and the reality turns out to be completely different? How will you handle that?

My recommendation: If you are at a certain level of comfort with your partner, have a lighthearted (pun intended) conversation about the day and find out what they

think about it. Remember that it's a day mostly aimed at women. Most men only do what society has informed them because a good man doesn't want to disappoint his girl, so be gentle on him.

If talking about it prior is not an option for you, then remind yourself that, whatever happens on the day, you will embrace and accept it — even if that means you are dating one of those oblivious men and end up deeply disappointed. By the following year, you'll be more invested in the relationship; then you can give him a polite prod about making Valentine's Day plans!

Related Link: <u>5 Celebrity Couples Who Got Engaged on Valentine's Day</u>

Valentine's Day Date Ideas for Married Couples

If you're married: Being married and celebrating Valentine's Day should be fabulous and stress-free. You already know each other's needs, wants, and desires and how to accommodate them. Over the years, that could be as simple as a card and a homecooked candlelit dinner. After all, cooking together can be a very intimate and enjoyable process.

One of the things to be aware of with long-term relationships is complacency. The notion of not buying into this "commercial holiday" because you've been together so long is one you should ignore. My expert dating advice is to make it matter! If you're looking for Valentine's Day date ideas, do something out of the ordinary to celebrate each other. Surprise each other with the unexpected, whether it be lingerie or a weekend getaway —whatever is out of the norm for you as a couple. The element of surprise keeps romance alive; it reignites the flames of passion and, in turn, fills the heart with love.

Melanie Mar is a relationship expert and life coach as well as co-owner of the Millionaire's Club International Matchmaking Agency for the U.K. and Europe. She is certified by the WANT Institute in Androgynous Semantic Realignment and a Transaction Analysis practitioner certified by the United States America Transaction Analysis Association.

Product Review: Check Out Gaiam's New Athletic Yoga Collection for Men — Just in Time for Valentine's Day!





This post is sponsored by Gaiam.

By Shannon Seibert

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, it's time to figure out what to get your man for the special holiday. If he seems to have everything he needs, why not get him a gift that will benefit both of you? With Gaiam's new Athletic yoga collection for men, you can improve his health and reduce his stress, paving the way for him to be an even better partner. Take a deep breath and help your man find his chi, thanks to our product review of the Athletic maxTowel and Athletic dynaMat.

Product Review: Gaiam's Athletic maxTowel and dynaMat

First, check out the <u>Athletic maxTowel</u> (\$29.98). It's designed to provide the maximum absorbency and the largest coverage to take care of even the biggest of muscles. Towel Dry Tech absorbs twice as much as standard cotton towels and dries in half the time, making sweat vanish almost immediately. This

technology makes the towel optimal for any yoga setting. From intense 100 degree hot yoga to a more traditional setting, the Athletic maxTowel is able to absorb even the sweatiest of workouts. That way, your relationship and love won't be negatively affected by your significant other's new workout routine!

At 30 inches wide and 84 inches long, this enormous towel can probably hold both of you on your yoga date, providing the perfect excuse to get even closer to each other. This popular product can even be taken down to the beach or to your local park for a romantic session of sunrise yoga.

Next, take a look at the <u>Athletic dynaMat</u> (\$39.98). This reversible yoga mat is designed to be wider and thicker than most traditional mats, making it perfect for men. The extra space and support will help him feel at ease as he attempts to master even the most challenging poses. It'll even give him the stability he needs to sneak a glance at you in your tight yoga pants!

"The Athletic maxTowel and Athletic dynaMat are the perfect gift for that yoga-loving man in your life," says Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco after her product review. "The oversized towel is soft and plush, and the mat has great support and thickness without being too big and bulky. They're both a great Valentine's Day present for that guy who has it all!"

With the proper equipment from Gaiam, your love will be able to head to the gym with confidence. Maybe he'll even reignite your workout motivation! After all, summer will be here before we know it.

Both the Athletic maxTowel and Athletic dynaMat are available at Gaiam.com.

Dealing with a Valentine's Day Breakup





By Lori Zaslow and Jennifer Zucher for Project Soulmate

According to AYI.com, one in five people were dumped on Valentine's Day. The best way to combat that seemingly horribly timed breakup is to get right back in the saddle! Look at this negative occurrence as a positive opportunity.

Good news is, it's still the beginning of the year. Make it your new New Year's resolution to let go of the one who broke your heart and focus on your fabulous self.

Related Link: <u>5 Celebrity Exes That Became Famous After the Breakup</u>

To start the forgetting process, make a list of what you don't like about your ex. Think about those times when he made you feel bad and didn't lift you back up. Then, write about the life you want. Who knows, thinking about your future may even inspire you to write a book or open your own business.

Erase all of your photos of him; if it's too hard to relive those memories, ask a friend to do it. Delete him from your phone too. The less you're reminded of him, the better.

Don't go on social media to check his status — and don't use mutual friends to do it either! Don't reread old emails, love notes, and text messages; you'll only make yourself upset. Don't listen to old voicemails either. The key is to remove all the triggers that relate to your ex.

Now, take a step back to get organized and then dive into your goals.

Go to the gym and take a spin class or drink some of that increasingly popular green juice. (It tastes decent but makes you *feel* great.) When you take care of yourself physically, your mental health and self-esteem improve too.

Not into the gym? Learn something new. Sign up for a French class or dig out your cookbooks and try different recipes. You won't have time to think about your broken heart when you're trying to figure out what "l'indépendance va vous libérer" means or how to not burn the soufflé that's in the oven!

Related Link: How to Get Through a Breakup and Heal Your Heart

Use this time to tap back into your responsibilities and remain active. My sister met her fiancé through the kickball league that she joined with her girlfriends. You never know when or where you'll stumble across The One!

This is also the perfect opportunity to explore new avenues of dating. Why not create an online dating profile? Let the positive feedback you receive from people messaging you boost your confidence. Just be sure you don't compare your new potential mate to your ex. It's time to start completely anew. Good luck!

For more information about Project Soulmate, click here.

Any tips for dealing with a broken heart? Tell us in the comments below!

Jason Derulo Surprises Jordin Sparks with 10,000 Roses for Valentine's Day





By Louisa Gonzales

R&B artist Jason DeRulo shows he isn't shy of making grand romantic gestures to the special person in his life, singer Jordin Sparks, on Valentine's Day. According to <u>UsMagazine.com</u> the long-term couple, DeRulo got Jordin 10,000 roses on the holiday and they were even in her favorite color, orange, still very much proving romance is alive in their relationship. He made it happen with the help of the shop Passion Roses, and by renting out a suite at the Redbury Hotel, where the surprise took place. Sparks captured the lovely moment with a picture she later shared on Instagram, and spoke of how "overwhelmed" she was by the surprise and how she thought it was "beautiful". DeRulo also shared his excitement on Instagram posting a pic of the roses filled room.

How do you use gifts to show your appreciation for your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

It's nice to receive gifts from people you love and care about. When someone gets you a present it shows that they think about you and appreciate you. Giving your partner gifts is important for your relationship, especially with helping your lovebird feel loved. Cupid has some advice on to use gifts to show your gratitude toward your special someone:

1. Give your lover a gift on a non holiday: Want to really show your appreciation and gratitude to your special someone? What better way to that than to give them a gift for no other specific reason other than because you love them and just wanted to. Maybe give them a gift when you see they are having a bad week or going through a hard time, nothing like gifting them with something special to bring a smile to their face.

Related: New Couple: Jordin Sparks Is Dating Jason Derulo

2. Plan to give the best gift yet for their next birthday: Nothing will show how much you love and care about your lover then by making their birthday one to remember. Birthdays usually become less exciting as we get older and the presents are less unique and special, break that idea and notion by doing or getting something you know your honey will love, enjoy and truly appreciate. Think about what gift will truly surprise them, you can also ask family and friends for help.

Related: <u>5 Celebrity Couples Who Got Engaged on Valentine's</u>
Day

3. Create, make or write a personalized gift: This is a chance to show your creative side as well as show you are willing to make the time and effort to put something together that is one of kind and just for them. A gift doesn't necessarily mean giving your loved one a present. You can also write your sweetheart a personalized love letter or thank you card that expresses how grateful and thankful you are to have them in your life or show you appreciation by making them breakfast in

Bonus Giveaway: Embrace Love and Support Our Troops With Bands for Arms





This post is sponsored by Bands for Arms.

By Kristin Mattern,

Every so often, something comes along that evokes an emotion. Bands for Arms bracelets are that kind of item. The unique bracelets are hand-crafted by volunteers and constructed out

of donated pieces of old military uniforms, which were worn by our military men and women. 50 percent of the profits go to not-for-profit organizations that help our service members.

Founder Nicanor Padrigo Mendoza III believes that all U.S. military service members need to be able to feel connected to their loved ones back home. After the loss of his friend in 2009, he wanted to find a way to help service members make that happen. He also desired to spread the word of the physical, mental, and emotional hardships that our armed forces endure and to provide support for those men and women.

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away two bracelet/tee-shirt bundles from Bands for Arms which contain five bracelets to give your friends and family and one Military tee-shirt that supports breast cancer!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 10 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Bands for Arms." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Andreya Baker!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 14: Lipocore Fat Burner by FA

Engineered Nutrition





This post is sponsored by Lipocore.

By Kristin Mattern

Valentine's Day is all about love, but it isn't just for loving others: it's for loving yourself too! On this day, treat your body like a temple and give yourself the TLC you deserve with Lipocore from FA Engineered Nutrition.

FA Engineered Nutrition is spearheaded by one of the most influential women in the Sports Nutrition Industry, Liz Gaspari, and seasoned fitness professional and international bestselling author, James Villepigue. With their vision of sports health, their company works to provide the most effective products for any body. From cyclists to tennis players to MMA fighters, FA Engineered Nutrition's products

provide synergistic effects that bring amazing results to everyone.

Lipocore is one of the best-selling fat burners on the market today, which works by increasing thermogenesis to ramp up the metabolism to melt away fat. This incredible supplement increases the heat in your body to help burn more calories and allows your body to tap into body fat for energy, saving valuable muscle glycogen for your working muscles. With Lipocore, you'll give yourself a gift that keeps on giving long after the chocolates have been devoured and those flowers have wilted.

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away one bottle of thermogenic supplements from Lipocore!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 10 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Lipocore." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Shannon Pacella!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 13: Juicy Couture's Viva La Juicy Noir Fragrance





This post is sponsored by Juicy Couture.

By Louisa Gonzales

Valentine's Day evokes different emotions from people, and usually, that emotion depends on their current relationship status. Many women use the day to spend romantic time with their partner. Some singles rebel against it and treat it like a big girls night out. Whatever your status, make a bold statement this Valentine's Day and try Juicy Couture's new fragrance Viva La Juicy Noir.

Elizabeth Arden is known for her many and impressionable scents that can reflect your personality. This particular fragrance, otherwise known as "Drinks Only," is a sultry go-to for making a glam statement. Viva La Juicy Noir's scent is an enticing interpretation of the original best-selling Viva La Juicy fragrance.

The smell is intoxicating with hints of ripe berries, juicy mandarin, and fresh strawberry. It also has a sprinkle of honeysuckle and sandalwood that gives it a classic finish. The scent captures all the traits of a "Juicy girl," as it's mysterious, sensual, and arresting.

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away one bottle of Juicy Couture's new fragrance Viva La Juicy Noir.

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 9 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Juicy Couture." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Ann Marie Johnson!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 12: Give Yourself Some "Selfie-Love" With ShutterBall





This post is sponsored by Audiovox.

By Kristin Mattern

There's no better way to commemorate how you spend your Valentine's Day this year than with selfies of you on a date or you hanging with the girls during a night on the town. But those awkward angles and one-handed pics can sometimes leave you with a less than stellar photo! If you haven't perfected the art of a selfie yet, you can now make every picture a glamour shot with ShutterBall from Audiovox!

ShutterBall works by triggering the coordinating app on your phone to take a still or video, which means that you can wirelessly hold the ShutterBall in one hand with your phone in the other. You can even set your phone down to take that epic pic or footage that you've been dreaming of. Compatible with both Android 2.2 or later and Apple iOS 6.0 or later, this must-have phone accessory is simple to set up and easy to use. Just download the app, and you're ready to go!

Small enough to hold in your palm and with a convenient loop to keep your ShutterBall handy on your jeans, key chain, or purse, you'll always be able to snap the perfect photo. This Valentine's Day, give someone special the gift of a beautiful selfie!

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away a ShutterBall Selfie from AudioVox!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 8 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Shutterball Selfie." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations Bree Pearsall!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 11: Fall In Love with Music and the 808 CANZ Portable Speaker





This post is sponsored by AudioVox.

By Kristin Mattern

What better way to spend Valentine's Day than by turning up the volume and dancing to the music? Sure, you could go out to a club and chill to the songs that the DJ selects, but having your own dance party or intimate evening is much more fun with 808 bluetooth CANZ from AudioVox!

Do you feel like heading out for the day? Take 808 CANZ with you! It's compact size and six-hour rechargeable battery life makes it perfect to tag along whether you're heading to the beach, having a picnic or just hanging at a friend's house. Using Bluetooth and wireless capabilities, you can link up whatever tunes you're in the mood for and jam the night away. CANZ comes in metallic blue, red or silver and is very fun and functional.

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away a speaker from 808 CANZ!

email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 7 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "808 CANZ." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Shannon Pacella!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 9: Tap Into Your Love Life With Love Lenormand





This post is sponsored by Yolanda Shoshana.

By Yolanda Shoshana

Love is an amazing thing. However, there are times when we have questions about a particular relationship or want to know when we'll meet a special someone. You might even be wondering if you'll meet 'the one' on Valentine's Day. That is where the Love Lenormand reading by Yolanda Shoshana will help! The reading includes an in-depth, nine-card spread about your love life completed with the Lenormand Silhouette deck — a deck that is perfect for love readings due to soft and romantic images of lovers in Paris on one side and the traditional Lenormand images on the other.

Lenormand fortune cards were inspired by the French gypsy, Marie Anne Lenormand, and have been used since the 15th century. The 36-card deck is similar to tarot cards but offer a different experience. The cards have a touch of astrology and numerology in them to help with making predictions.

For the reading, you will send your questions via email. After your questions are received, a reading will be completed and

sent via email with a mp3 voice recording of the session. Why wait for a secret admirer to step up or pine over a would-be lover? You can find out if Mr. or Mrs. Right is heading your way!

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away one Love Lenormand reading from Yolanda Shoshana!

To enter for a chance to win please email <u>cupid@cupidspulse.com</u> with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 5 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Lenormand." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

This giveaway is now closed.

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 8: Signed Recipe Book from VH1 Mob Wives Star





This post is sponsored by Jennifer, Renee, and Lana Graziano.

By Kristin Mattern

One of the greatest ways to show someone you love them is by cooking them up a delicious meal. Another way some couples and families show their affection is by having a rousing argument around the dinner table while surrounded by a yummy landscape of food: a tradition carried on by the stars of *Mob Wives* and the Graziano sisters.

Mob Wives creator and executive producer Jennifer, Mob Wives star Renee, and restaurateur Lana have come together to provide you with sensational recipes that will make you a star in your own kitchen and give you something to banter over this Valentine's Day.

Their new book, "How To Use A Meat Cleaver" is a full-color cookbook which features 100 of their most-coveted family recipes including Lana's Famous Meatballs, Lobster Arriagiatta, Sunday Gravy, Sausage and Peppers, Fillet Mignon and more. The girls also share some personal family stories with their readers.

Instead of braving the crowds and eating mediocre-mass-produced-food this Valentine's Day, cook like a Graziano and create cuisine that will impress your partner or your girlfriends with your culinary prowess. After all, sometimes the way to someone's heart is through their stomach! Especially if you're dating a foodie.

This Valentine's Day, CupidsPulse.com will be giving away a signed copy of "How to Use a Meat Cleaver!"

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 4 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Cookbook." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Modesto Gallo!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 7: Mariah Carey's Dreams Fragrance





This post is sponsored by Elizabeth Arden.

By Louisa Gonzales

Valentine's Day has come again, and now is the time to make it one to remember. Elizabeth Arden worked with Mariah Carey to create a fragrance that can live up to even your wildest dreams. If you're going for "happily ever after" this year, then this scent is for you.

The multi-award winning artist wanted to put together a classic, captivating, and sexy scent, and she delivers with Dreams. She invites you to celebrate life and its many stages along the way and reminds you to cherish its most intimate moments.

The fragrance smells of salted caramel apple and star anise combined with bergamot and toasted almonds. There's also a drop of honeysuckle intertwined with inviting freesia and a small undertone of lily of the valley that gives it a feminine touch. The last few ingredients are a blend of warm patchouli, Tonka bean, and Madagascar vanilla grounds. Yum!

Whether you are coupled or single, you can now arouse the senses with the intoxicating scent of Dreams.

This Valentine's Day CupidsPulse.com will be giving away
Dreams perfume from Elizabeth Arden!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 3 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Mariah Carey Dreams." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Frank Point!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 1: Enjoy a Special Food Delivery from Goldbely





This post is sponsored by Goldbely.

By Kristin Mattern

Food can be a sensual experience as you and your date delve from sugary depths to rich heights and spicy plateaus. If your tastebuds are looking for a sensory playground that sampling a variety of cuisine afford, nobody delivers this kind of food discovery like Goldbely!

Founded by self-proclaimed food lovers on a quest for exquisite taste sensations, Goldbely believes that food is best enjoyed when shared with those you love and the best foods to share are those that excite the curiosity. By exploring the US for the most interesting kinds of foods, Goldbely connects foodies with delicious eats from gourmet food purveyors.

Maybe you live in Tennessee, and crave a real New York delistyle pastrami on rye. Or you and your bestie are Washington natives dying to have some authentic Texas BBQ. Goldbely hooks you up with whatever food it is you yen for but are separated from by those long stretches of majestic fields of grain and

purple mountains. Why go out for Valentine's Day when you can have a unique dinner delivered right to your front door!

This Valentine's Day CupidsPulse.com will be giving away a \$50 gift card from Goldbely!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 9 a.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Goldbely." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Congratulations to Briana Christina O'Halloran!

Open to US residents only.

Valentine's Day Giveaway 5: Stay Chic And Hands Free with SHOLDIT Clutch Wrap





By Kristin Mattern

Walking hand in hand with your partner is a magical moment. Striding along next to your sweetie, you look down at your hand clasped tightly around... your purse? Don't miss out on intimate moments this Valentine's Day by being encumbered by your bag, be hands free and fashionable with SHOLDIT!

SHOLDIT is the incredible accessory that combines a chic look with functionality. This circular scarf is much more than its average scarf-cousins who only lend warmth and beauty to the wearer. SHOLDIT Clutch Wrap purse combines the beauty of a scarf, the security of a cross body and the convenience of a clutch all in one item! You can carry the essentials — like your phone, passport, lip gloss and sunglasses — without worrying about the size of the purse you will need for that shopping trip with the girls or for that romantic night out. Styled however you like as a scarf, cross body or clutch, you have all of your items at arms reach without the worry or inconvenience of a conventional purse.

Treat yourself, your bestie, your sister, your mom and all the women you love in your life to the hands free luxury of SHOLD

IT by entering for a chance to win this must have accessory!

This Valentine's Day CupidsPulse.com will be giving away one Sholdit Clutch Wrap!

To enter for a chance to win please email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number NO LATER THAN 1 p.m. EST today. In the subject line, please write "Sholdit." Winners will be contacted on Monday, February 17, 2014. You can enter each contest only once. Good luck!

Open to US residents only.