

GOTHAM

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3 Creative Ways to Spend Valentine's Day

By Simona Rabinovitch

Valentine's Day calls for romance and creativity. Check out three fabulous and unique ideas that will certainly entertain and satisfy you and your significant other.



A Staycation at **The Mark**

The Mark, an elegant Upper East Side five-star hotel, can be your home-away-from-home this Valentine's Day, thanks to its Love to Indulge by Frédéric Malle package. With your one-night stay, you'll receive a set of the French perfumer's famed soap, Anterenea, as well as his Café Society candle made with lavender, patchouli, and amber. Also yours for the taking is a bottle of Champagne, fresh roses, and a cheese and fruit platter. As the sun rises, enjoy breakfast a deux at The Mark Restaurant by Jean-Georges (Vongerichten, that is) or order room service (the French toast with sautéed apples is divine).

25 E. 77th St., 212-744-4300

An Ultra-Exclusive Dinner

Celebrated French restaurant Le Cirque has come up with a unique, four-course Valentine's Day menu, with each course (except dessert) offering a choice that features one rare, delectable ingredient: fresh black truffles. Begin with a lobster salad with black truffle dressing. Then, indulge in a black truffle and wild mushroom risotto, followed by Brandade fraiche with poached farm egg and black truffle, and a whole roasted chicken for two with black truffle and roasted winter root vegetables. With desserts like pineapple soufflé, baked Alaska for two and the aptly-named Chocolate Passion to choose from, you'll certainly be inspired.



One Beacon Court, 151 E. 58th St., 212-644-0202

Escape to Bedford

Surprises in love are always welcome, and what better surprise than a quick escape? Owned by Richard Gere, Carey Lowell, and Russell Hernandez, the Bedford Post Inn is a swanky country getaway just an hour north of the city. The luxury inn offers eight suites with very special bathrooms. Featuring glass-encased rain showers, separate water closets, Carrera marble décor, and claw-foot tubs imported from Portugal, the Inn is simply delightful. Acclaimed on-site restaurant The Farmhouse (there's also The Barn) presents a special Valentine's Day menu, featuring steak tartare, vegetable cassoulet, and black sea bass. The 14-acre property also houses the Yoga Loft, so you and your significant other can get your exercise fix together.



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