

“Love Springs Eternal in AC”

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Valentine’s Day... an entire 24 hours in sole dedication of expressions of affection and love with greetings and gifts (and a cracked bicuspid followed by a touch of alcohol poisoning... long story), and for the entire sales and marketing industry to reap the benefits. The holiday (*grab your mats, kids, it’s circle time again*) has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery (*and you think online dating is weird*). At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I replaced “Lupercalia” with “St. Valentine’s Day”; when chocolates became a thing I have no idea. But! We do know it came to be celebrated as a day of romance from about the 14th century and on. Now, there is much speculation regarding the actual original Valentine for whom the saintly title is bestowed. Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from either a priest who was martyred around 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II, who signed a letter to his jailor’s daughter in prison “from your Valentine” OR a guy named Valentine who defied the emperor’s orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. My whole point is... no one knows why we celebrate the day, but it’s a completely romantic notion and has become a tradition so we just accept it; hallmark cards, and boxes of crusty Russell Stovers and all.



So! If you wish to forgo the hastily-purchased stale chocolates (that have that weird faded filmy white layer because the store tried to pass their year –old-merchandise off as new but we know your lies!) from the CVS you just breezed through on your way to pick up your sweetheart, pay very close attention. Below is a list of truly awesome deals for this year’s holiday that you will find very hard to resist.

Love is in the air at Hard Rock! The resort is offering couples-only spa specials in the month of February at Rock Spa & Salon. Indulge in a 2 hour couples retreat with full body scrub, Himalayan salt bath, and 50 minute couples massage with champagne and chocolates! In addition to the spa specials Hard Rock’s many fine and casual dining spots are taking reservations for you to enjoy a dinner with that special someone. And, here’s the clincher, stay the night with rooms starting at \$49!



Tropicana is getting in the mood by offering great Valentine's packages this year: renew your vows at Boogie Nights Annual Valentine's Day Ball or make a reservation for a romantic dinner at Olón, Okatshe, Golden Dynasty, Casa Taco, or *((shameless plug))* Cuba Libre Restaurant and Rum Bar *((additional shameless plug alert))*, where you will be blinded by love! No literally. We'll give you an actual eye mask and chocolates and you and your honey can take turns feeding each other's faces. Also on the "table" (see what I did there?) Chelsea Five Gastropub, The Palm, Carmine's, and Rira Irish Pub!



Looking for something different to do this Valentine's Day? Why not get married or renew your vows at Little Water Distillery. The craft distillery is offering a wedding & vow renewal special on Valentine's Day starting at only \$49! Tours and tastings are from 5 - 9 PM Thursday and Friday with extended daytime hours on Saturday and Sunday.

Enjoy an evening out at Bourre AC! Bourre is preparing a Prix Fixe Valentine's Day menu at \$25 per person then get your groove on with some reggae/ska/rock at their Valentine's Day Massacre! Couples entering together will receive BOGO \$5 cover, and just to reiterate, I'm super cheap so when my eyes see BOGO I go all wiry and strung out. Let's just say I get highly excited, which paints a picture for you on what I was like back in the days of BOGO specials at Payless Shoe Source.

I digress! All you need is love... and chocolate! This unique to Atlantic City hotspot makes bean to bar chocolate and serves up chocolate cocktails that are sure to ignite any date night! MADE Chocolates will also be featured items on menus at select Tennessee Avenue establishments so look out for them.



And lastly, there are a TON of great happenings going on at the Claridge for Valentine's Day. Join Chef Craig Johnson for a Couples Cooking Class package that includes an overnight stay, dinner and breakfast for two! Just mind your fingertips when chopping. The last thing you want for date night is an impromptu trip to AtlantiCare and your date put in the hot seat by the triage nurse asking, “would you like to donate blood just in case”. And we all know ((*sarcasm alert*)) nothing screams a positive probability of a 2nd date with phrases like “missing phalanges” and “hemoglobin” and “would you like some juice?” If cooking isn't your thing than try the Valentine's Day Getaway Package featuring an overnight stay, Valentine's Day buffet for two at the historic Twenties American Bistro, complimentary drinks at the VÜE Rooftop Bar, as well as breakfast for two the following morning!



Ok... so we've established now you have no excuses. There are a multitude of places to choose from. You literally have zero chance of disappointing your partner, even the ones with ridiculously high expectations. And for those of you with partners that are cool and appreciative well then you're just guaranteed an amazing time wherever you go. My other half and I will be going to Morton's for a romantic dinner... because I'm cheap and have gift cards from Christmas and they have the most amazing Burrata salad that I have been thinking about all week, but ALSO because Morton's is fantastic and my guy is a true carnivore and loves steak. But regardless we'll be together and that's all that matters. Have a very Happy Valentine's Day!

Dine Your Heart Out

Celebrate
Valentine's Day
at Morton's!

February 8th-15th



Featuring
Steak & Lobster for \$59

Paired perfectly with a bottle of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars,
Artemis, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley for \$99