



Toast of the town:
Bateaux London

EAT&DRINK

LONDON DIALS UP THE ROMANCE WITH THESE DINING CHOICES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY. BY LAURA MILLAR

Tour de force

Impress your date with dinner by the water at Le Pont de La Tour at the base of Tower Bridge. Here, the five-course Valentine's Day menu will showcase the best of French cuisine, from caramelised artichoke velouté with thyme brioche, to dry-aged beef fillet Bordelaise. Finish off with something as sweet as your partner: a white chocolate, rose and pistachio Paris-Brest.

From £90pp, lepontdelatour.co.uk

Give it some welly

Eat your own words (kind of) in the form of a delicious beef Wellington at stylish Soho dining room Sussex. Chef and co-founder Oliver Gladwin will be hand-crafting personalised wellies with couples' initials, available to share as a supplement for the Valentine's Day set lunch menu (£32pp) or as part of the set dinner menu (£58pp). The menus will be served next Friday and Saturday, and pre-booking is essential.

sussex-restaurant.com

Mighty Aphrodite

Fitzrovia Greek restaurant Meraki is taking inspo from the goddess of love for its Valentine's Day Aphrodite set menu. You'll find oysters with taramasalata and lemon, moussaka



Tower of strength:
Eat by the river at
Le Pont de La Tour

with truffle and mavrodaphne wine, and a dark chocolate sphere with strawberry and basil. Kick off with an Eros cocktail, made with brut champagne and hibiscus syrup.

From £75pp, greek-wine-pairing
£115pp, meraki-restaurant.com

The love boat

Mess around on the river with a romantic Thames cruise - and dinner - courtesy of Bateaux London. Next Friday, you can

indulge in a special Valentine's Day dinner with table settings covered in roses, a floating kissing deck (of course) and a five-course meal set to live music. You may be too busy gazing into your partner's eyes to notice the magical sight of the city at night but, trust us, it's there.

From £149pp, bateauxlondon.com

Wine and roses

If you had to describe your other half as a wine, what would they be? Fruity? Sweet? Rich (ideally)? New Covent Garden restaurant 28-50 Wine Bar & Kitchen is offering a personalised wine-pairing menu, whereby romantic wine lovers can surprise their date with a tippie tailored to their personality - determined through answering a range of questions. The three-course set menu, priced at £69.95, will offer tasty dishes such as foie gras terrine, slow-roasted lamb shoulder with Swiss chard and grelot onion, and white chocolate with Yorkshire rhubarb.

2850coventgarden.co.uk

SWEET TREATS

Next Friday, don't say it with flowers, say it with an éclair from Maitre Choux in Chelsea or Soho. The Red Love (£5.80) is filled with Tahitian vanilla cream and raspberry purée, while the Spanish Raspberry (£5.20) contains the aforementioned fruit topped with a rosewater glaze and decadent meringue. For a personalised touch, send your valentine an I Love You éclair (£5.20), where you can choose the filling, including dark chocolate or smooth caramel.

maitrechoux.com



ALTERNATIVELY...

If you're not into hearts and flowers, try one of these instead

■ Bingo fan? Get yourself to the Valentine-themed drag bingo at Peckham Springs, hosted by two of London's most infamous queens, Johnny Bones and Mynxie (right). There'll be drinks and cash prizes to be won, with live drag acts and camp disco capers, followed by a big bash.

Feb 14 from 7pm, free, peckhamsprings.co.uk



Eyes down: Drag yourself to the bingo

■ Find love at one of speed-dating company Original Dating's foodie-themed events, in partnership with Fortnum & Mason at The Royal Exchange. Dining With Strangers comprises three evenings of food and chat in elegant surroundings. Choose from Plant-based People on Tuesday, Fortnum's Lovers on Wednesday and Cheesy Food, Not Chat Up Lines on Thursday.

Tickets £25pp, originaldating.com

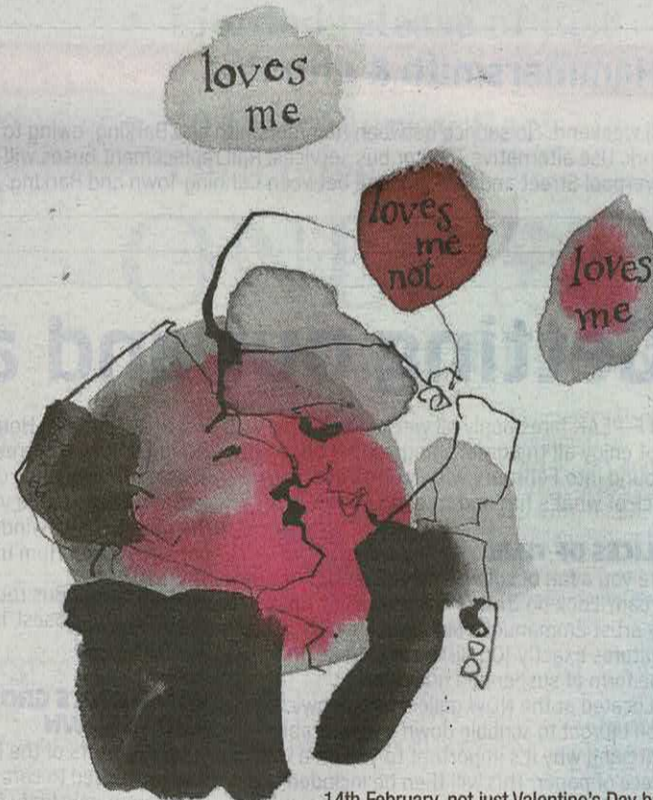
■ If you're proudly single, treat yourself and your mates to the Anti-Valentine's dinner at Frog by Adam Handling in Covent Garden. At the sharing table in the Library private dining room, dive into the sharing bottles of tequila and enjoy a five-course meal that includes wagyu steak and cod with pickled artichoke, for £100pp.

thefrogrestaurant.com

LOVE À LA MODE

VALENTINE'S AT ART YARD BAR & KITCHEN, BANKSIDE

Illustration by @bridgetdavesart



14th February, not just Valentine's Day but the start of London Fashion Week, so we've combined the two. Between 7pm and 9pm, fashion-inspired artist Bridget Davies will be live sketching in the restaurant.

Book a table for dinner or drop in for one of our fashion-inspired cocktails and if you're lucky enough to be in one of Bridget's sketches, you get to keep it.

ART YARD
BAR & KITCHEN

www.artyardbarandkitchen.com/valentines

Art Yard Bar & Kitchen | 2 Blackfriars Road, Upper Ground, London, SE1 9JU
+44 20 3943 2020 | artyardbarandkitchen.com | @artyardbankside

