

# “Valentines Day Made Special”

**First Edition**



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# Introduction

Is Valentine's Day all about gifts? Or is it really about true love? What do you give? How do you present it? Will he like it? Will she respond? There are always a million questions that run through our head when picking a gift for a loved one, more so especially when it is a Valentine gift.

With its origin dating back to the 14th century, [Valentine's Day](#) has been marked by numerous unique declarations, with couples seeking the most appropriate way of expressing their love for one another, and even the smallest florist often ends the day making a 'full bloom' profit on Valentine's Day!

While many consider this to be a day reserved only for lovers, Valentine's Day is a declaration of love even between family or friends and it is safe to say that you may choose to celebrate this day with anyone you love.

Each of us seeks to be different and to tell the special someone in our lives that they mean a lot to us and their presence in our lives is extra special. Sometimes it is easy to be disappointed with gifts from loved ones when realizing that you spent more on their gift to them than the other way around.

So, is there a general rule of thumb? Yes, there is! Don't make a declaration that you know that they will like, make a declaration you know they will love. In other words, when you are picking out a gift for that special someone, you must know them well enough to pick out something, in the form of a special dinner or flowers that you know appeals to them and not only appeals to you.

## For Her

No matter what she says, **flowers** can always captivate. If you are a new couple or you are trying to capture her heart for the first time, bear in mind that roses are not always the answer. It is common for women to like roses but some do have other preferences and knowing this before you spend a fortune on flowers will give you the sense of appreciation that you deserve.

And if she does not have a particular preference, then a little research is good in this section too as different flowers carry different meanings. For example, yellow roses actually [mean jealousy](#) and Petunias actually [mean resentment](#).

While it may seem like an easy choice for your loved one, remember that this is Valentine's and probably at least a hundred other people have the same idea as you so make an early booking with your florist and BE VERY CLEAR on delivery details. The last thing you will need is to have the florist and your loved one playing a cat and mouse game. Provide an address that you know will be occupied, because even if your loved one will not be there to accept the flowers at that very time, someone can do so on her behalf.

If you believe in the notion that "flowers say it all" and you have a budget for it, then a lavish bouquet is definitely no issue and you may make additional arrangements with your florist to include chocolates, heart balloons or gift ornaments in the form of decorative angels, butterflies or hearts.

However, if you are someone who believes that the increase in prices during Valentine's is unnecessary and you do not wish to spend as much on an item that will wither away, then you may opt to send flowers either before Valentine's Day or to have a decorative dried floral arrangement sent. Dried arrangements too can range in a variety of flowers so there will be no issue on selecting flowers that your loved

one will like although you may want to check if your local florist has these ready made or if you will need to place an order some weeks in advance.

You can make the flower delivery memorable by adding a further significance to the delivery in the form of the number of flowers or the time. That is, if you have known her for 10 months then you may want to send 10 stalks or 1 stalk for every day that you have known her or if the both of you first met at a certain time and you would like to have this remembered through flowers then now would be the best time.

A message alongside the delivery also says a lot. If you are into poems then picking one would be easy, if you are not then you can give [google.com](http://google.com) a shot using keywords such love quotes, love inspirations, quotes for sweetheart, valentine's day quotes etc.

Most outlets, be it shopping or cosmetics, provide **gift vouchers** these days so a Valentine's shopping spree could be a definite treat for your loved one that you can indulge her with if you know that she has an exceptional fancy for shopping till she drops. You may opt to get a series of vouchers in different monetary values from her favorite outlet(s) or you may just opt to have one voucher.

Some items that you will need to note when going for this option is of course the validity of these vouchers and to make sure that these are not 'purchase with purchase' or discount vouchers meaning that your loved one will actually have to buy something first in order to use the voucher that you have just given her.

You may opt to purchase a voucher that is only valid on Valentine's Day or you may wish to take it a little further by ensuring the vouchers are valid for an entire year or at least for six months which will give her an ample choice of items that she can purchase through the changing seasons or fashion trends.

Packaging is also another essential point. When buying the vouchers, get the store(s) to gift wrap the vouchers so they will actually like a proper Valentine's gift and not just any item in a white envelope.

If the store cannot manage this for you, then opt to walk in to a gift store that will have a variety of paper bags or fancy envelopes that you can slot the vouchers into. Choosing one with a Valentine theme or in a color that she likes would be best.

Accessories for a female loved one function very well as an extra special gift provided you are familiar with her taste.

For example, **jewelry** is a delightful option to consider. You may opt for the classic gold chain and pendant or take it a notch further with a platinum or diamond set. Instead of the usual pendant and chain, you may also opt to buy her bangles or bracelets and these days even hand phone holders can come in gold or encrusted with diamonds. If you like to have this gift remembered for even longer then you may have an engraving done of the year, her name or both your names. Considering that prices are quite high for purchasing jewelry, you may want to shop around at a few different stores before actually settling for something that you both like. Alternatively, you may also take her along for her to pick out her favorite piece although this will take the surprise mode out of her gift.

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## **Valentines Day Made Special**

By [www.ValentinesDayMadeSpecial.com](http://www.ValentinesDayMadeSpecial.com)

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This Valentine's treat can always start with the two of you packing the picnic together which also gives new couples the chance to discover likes and dislikes of one another.

An additional word of caution though, if you are planning this as a surprise for your loved one, then make sure that he or she is actually up for such an outdoor treat. The definition of "a romantic outing" differs from person to person, so make sure both of you are on the same wavelength.

If you have the budget for it, then you may also include a **sailing trip** on a hired yacht. Even if it is for one day, you can have the yacht stop at a private beach corner to give the two of you some alone time.

Lastly, if you have made plans for an outdoor treat, then be sure to have a back up in place if the weather does not coincide with your plans. And if you are both working, then make allowances for a day off. Even more so if this is going to be a surprise, give your loved one a reason to apply for leave in advance.

**Getaways** speak for themselves and this is ideal for couples who either have conflicting work schedules or need some time to themselves amidst the wants and needs of their little ones.

Early bookings are a definite must! Most hotels will usually have their promotions ready at least two months in advance. If you have a hotel in mind that has not advertised their Valentine's promotion, then you may ask for one or alternatively, you may enquire about a Romantic Getaway or Couples' Holiday packages which most will have.

This will of course include a room, welcome gifts in the form of pralines or chocolates, a candle lit bath or Jacuzzi in the evening and in-room dining with some additional treats which will vary from place to place.

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In terms of selecting an ideal hotel or getaway spot, a definite choice would be somewhere by the beach or on an island as this provides ample opportunity for a breathtaking view and a chance for hand-in-hand walks. However, while most areas are accessible throughout the year you will definitely want to check if your selected location is prone to floods, bad tides or the monsoon season.

For room selection, most hotels come with the traditional guest rooms but for a little change in environment, you may also opt for a place that comes with chalets as this will definitely give the both of you the privacy that you will need.

Alternatively, if you are not a beach person and prefer land locations instead, pick a place that is not congested with traffic or people. A highland destination or even some city hotels can cater for this.

There are two things you would need to make sure you have for this option. One, a budget as most getaways will cost nothing less than a couple of hundreds in your local currency and leave from work for the both of you must be done in advance as hotel cancellations will sometimes include fees or are not refundable at all as you will be staying during a peak season and/or alternatively a baby sitter for your little ones who will also need to have the contact information of the hotel you are staying in for emergency purposes.

However, should you get a babysitter or a relative to look after your little ones, please define what constitutes an emergency. This is solely to ensure that you two get your well deserved get away instead of rushing home at the smallest cut or bruise which can be sorted with a band aid.

You can make arrangements with hotel staff, usually by making a request at front office, if you would like to include additional items for your loved one in the guest room. If this is a valuable gift, then please

highlight it to the reception staff alongside the time and place you would like to have this gift presented to your loved one.

Presentation varies from person to person, so you can be specific about this, that is you would like placed with flowers or have it put on his/her pillow. Whichever you decide to go with this, timing is of the utmost importance. Last thing you need is, for the hotel staff to be trying to get into your room to place the surprise when you and your loved one are actually together.

**Spa-riffic moments** are also an ideal option to treat your loved one to a memorable Valentine's Day. Spas have mushroomed almost everywhere and without a doubt you will find it easy to locate a spa within your vicinity to take your loved one to.

While some spas will cater for a special Valentine's package, some will use their couples' therapy as a recommended treat. Again, planning is essential. You may choose to treat your loved one to only one segment of the treatment which will consist of just a massage which will usually last for a maximum of 1 hour or you may wish to include body scrubs, bath soaks and if you wish to take it a step further at a very nice outdoor spa, to spend the entire day there!

Spending an entire day at a spa will not be as costly as you think as most spas have value added services which include outdoor walking foot therapy, outdoor Jacuzzis, verandahs to lie down and experience the aromatic and serene spa environment.

Most spas will also cater for manicure, pedicure and additional foot reflexology treats that you may like to share with your loved one.

The ideal way of making this work would be to first, go around a few spas gaining a little info on the variety of treatments that they do offer and their guidelines. Bear in mind that this is not as easy as it sounds. If you are new at identifying spa treatments, some spas offer up to

200 different types of treatment which range from Ayurvedic, Balinese, Thai, Swiss and more. Some others already have a definite theme and only cater for particular type of treatment. For example, one spa may only offer a variety of Thai spa treatments.

Most spas will have an approximate arrival time which is usually at least 20 minutes prior to your session and bear in mind that not all spas have a couples' room, so this will be an essential question that you will need to ask. Once you are settled on which spa you do like, make an early booking.

Secondly, and this is very important if you don't want your Valentine throwing a fit, if this is the first time you and your Valentine are in a spa together, make sure both of you are comfortable with this as very little clothing will be involved when having a couples' massage. If you think him/her will not be comfortable to expose themselves to you, then it is best to either make an alternative Valentine treat or to have the spa make arrangements for you.

**Rekindling** is a definite choice for couples who have spent several years dating each other or married ones who still see something special about Valentine's Day. While you may opt to go for all the above suggestions, you may also choose to make it more memorable by taking a walk down memory lane.

This can involve one of so many things or a blend of many small items put together. One of which can be a dinner at the first place that the both of you met, even if this is miles away from home. The drive to and fro could give you both a chance to remember the good old times.

Another option can be a gift in the form of a digital album which carries various memorabilia that the two of you have gathered through the years. These can range from places that both of you have traveled to and even photographs that have been collected through time.

One other option, although this may be a little time consuming, would be to actually take as long as a week off and spend time in the places that the two of you patronized in the early stages of your relationship which may also include a visit to old friends. Literally a peep into the past, it would be best for both parties to actually want this and preparation is a must.

**Marry Me ...** There's no better time to say "Be Mine" than at Valentine's. If you are thinking of asking the loved one in your life to take a walk down the aisle, then making a proposal on Valentine's Day will definitely have him or her glowing.

Of course the element of surprise is best for any marriage proposal so if this is going to be an elaborate proposal then you will need to craft this very carefully with your friends or whoever you are getting to help you.

One of my friends proposed to his current wife by taking her for a walk in the park. At an interval of every 5 minutes or so, there would be mime holding a placard which would read, "I love you because ... (of your smile, your laugh etc.) and this went on for about 11 placards. At the 12th card it simply read, "I love you because you are you" and this was also the card where he got down on one knee and proposed to her.

While something like this may be elaborate, a marriage proposal is best if it is unique and involves memories that the two of you have had as a dating couple who are ready to move on to the next big step as a couple.

Some friends have even proposed just by taking a walk by the beach or while watching their favorite sitcom so really there's no right or wrong when it comes to proposals expect to be sure to do what works for the both of you.

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Last but not least, there are a few more do's and don'ts that you might want to include in your list of making Valentine's Day extra special. While these are not special remedies or specific rules, they are merely simple thoughts that hopefully adds spice to your Valentine's Day.

Do ...

- Take pictures of you and your Valentine together. If you don't have a camera then someone at the outlet usually will. Ask them to email or send it via snail mail to you. It doesn't matter that ten years down the road, the two of you may not be together. Memories of a good time will definitely beat not having a good time at all.
- Understand that if a woman is dressed up for a night out that is already planned, unless she is into spontaneity, a walk by the beach may not be as romantic as you think.
- Be punctual. Whether you are going out or simply picking your loved one up, being late for a special occasion is going to create tension you don't need.
- Do make the effort. If you know that Valentine's Day is special to your loved one then making some effort, no matter how small and even if it is not a tremendous one would be very much appreciated by your loved one.
- Tell your loved one how you feel. If you have something to say, then speak up.
- Make it a point to follow plans that the two of you have drawn out. Changing plans at the last minute might cause more

damage than you think and sometimes this could be more emotional than financial.

- Make the best effort you can to ensure all your plans are finalized before Valentine's Day itself. Trying to get things done at the last minute is going to leave you frustrated and your loved one very disappointed.
- Try your best to be unique. Valentine's is not about figuring out if you and this person are going to be together forever and ever but it is about telling this person in your life that you DO care for them and that they mean a lot to you. Being unique when you express yourself makes it all the more interesting, doesn't it?

Sample For Review

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The End