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## Valentine's Day Thought Starters for Chicago

Submitted by Joe Piehl on Fri, 01/24/2014 - 10:14am



**Valentine's Day is a few weeks away, which means you're about to be hit with a barrage of ads telling you that every kiss begins with a diamond and that a Galleria of diamonds is better than a regular jewelry store.**

But if you lock in your plans now you can confidently ignore and criticize all of annoying ads. To help you get started, we've pulled together a few ideas for various price ranges and a few multiday promotions for the folks that can't celebrate on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Budget (Less than \$30 pp)**

- [DMK Burger Bar](#) [1] is offering a pink strawberry milkshake for the entire month of February (\$5). So grab two straws and start sipping.

- Lace up your skates for a fun date at the [Millennium Park](#) <sup>[2]</sup> ice skating rink! Free if you have your own skates or \$10 to rent a pair.
- Stay inside with two mugs of [Mindy's Hot Chocolate](#) <sup>[3]</sup> and a movie from RedBox. The takehome hot chocolate blends (\$20) and homemade marshmallows (\$6) are a fun and low key way to spend the evening at home.

### **Moderate (\$30-80 pp)**

- Chef Bill Kim is allowing six couples to cozy up to the chef's table grill at [bellyQ](#) <sup>[4]</sup> for a special six-course tasting menu. \$75 pp.
- Skip dinner and head straight to [Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House](#) <sup>[5]</sup> for dessert! The Oak Street restaurant is pairing four sweet treats, like chocolate mousse cheese cake and cinnamon crème brûlée, with a mixture of wines and cocktails.
- Focusing on what they do best, [Sullivan's Steakhouse](#) <sup>[6]</sup> is offering mix and match three course dinner featuring some of best cuts of meat on the menu. Featuring everything from the 16oz rib eye to the broiled salmon, Sullivan's has one of the largest V-Day menus in Chicago.
- Perfect for the couple with similar tastes, [Tavernita](#) <sup>[7]</sup>'s Valentine's Day menu includes a choice of a Little Twin cocktail, two bites, one small plate, one raw bar item, one large plate and dessert. \$50 pp.
- [The Boarding House](#) <sup>[8]</sup> reminds us that prix fixe menus can please both omnivores and vegetarians. The four-course menu includes items such as roasted beet salad, braised fennel in a quinoa salad, butter poached Maine lobster and Colorado lamb chop. \$65 pp, wine pairings for \$38 pp. (Available Feb. 14-15)
- Buck the prix fixe menu trend with the a la carte specials, like roasted lamb rack (\$36), wild striped bass (\$28) and semolina gnocchi with black truffles (\$12), from [The Florentine](#) <sup>[9]</sup>.
- [The Joffrey Ballet](#) <sup>[10]</sup> brings much-needed heat with "Contemporary Choreographers," an evening of ballet from two luminous choreographers and a "rising star" from Chicago. The show runs February 12-23 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. Tickets range from \$31-152 pp.

### **High-end (\$81-160 pp)**

- Sushi, seafood and Wagyu beef come together for five-course tasting menu at [Roka Akor](#) <sup>[11]</sup>'s chic River North location. \$125 pp with wine or saki pairings for \$40. (Available Feb. 13-16)
- For [Travelle](#) <sup>[12]</sup>'s first Valentine's menu, Chef Tim Graham and Pastry Chef Scott Green are

adding a bit of drama with a five-course "Fire & Ice" menu featuring a fish set on fire and a chocolate molten cake set in a frosty cloud. \$155 pp.

### **Ultra high-end (More than \$160 pp)**

- For a night of glamour, [Trump Hotel](#) [13]'s "Be Mine" package includes a night in a deluxe guestroom, a chilled bottle of Champagne, chocolate truffles, a rose, and a continental breakfast for two in the privacy of your room. From \$380 per night.
- The ultimate sleep experience comes from the "Unforgettable Romance" package at [Trump Hotel](#) [13], which combines a Deluxe King guestroom; a bottle of Champagne; **a ten-course dinner for two at Sixteen**; exotic truffles; continental breakfast for two; and a late check-out of 2 p.m. \$775, plus alcohol during dinner. (Not available Feb. 14-16.)
- Romance goes above Michigan Ave. with [The Signature Room](#) [14]'s "Ultimate Romance Package." One of the city's most extravagant Valentine's Day packages, the evening includes gourmet cuisine, Dom Perignon, a dozen roses, butler service, live music and a private dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the city. \$2000 plus tax and gratuity. (Throughout February, subject to availability.)

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#### **Links:**

[1] <http://dmkburgerbar.com/>

[2] [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/millennium\\_park.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park.html)

[3] <http://www.hotchocolatechicago.com/>

[4] <http://bellyqchicago.com/>

[5] <http://delfriscos.com/>

[6] <file:///C:/Users/Joe/Desktop/sullivanssteakhouse.com/chicago>

[7] <http://tavernita.com/>

[8] <http://boardinghousechicago.com/dine/valentines-day-at-the-boarding-house/>

[9] <http://www.e2hospitality.com/florentine-chicago/>

[10] <http://www.joffrey.org/>

[11] <http://www.rokaakor.com/>

[12] <http://www.travellechicago.com/>

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