



San Diego

A magazine for the evolved man 

FEBRUARY 2015

THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS



Will the REAL
Lauren & Brien
PLEASE STAND UP?



FITNESS
TRAVEL
NUTRITION
FOOD & DRINK

Valentine's Day

4L MAGAZINE

GIFT GUIDE

2015

BY ROBBIN WATSON

Maybe in the past few years, you've had your wallet assaulted by the prix-fixe menu at that new restaurant she loves. Or maybe you went frantic, hopping from store to store to get that last teddy bear and box of chocolates that have sadly been sitting on the shelf since the day after New Year's.

Fear not, gentlemen, we've got more than a few fantastic ideas for the lucky lady in your life you're either newly dating, happily married to or maybe just somewhere in between ...



NOBLE EXPERIMENT
 777 G St., San Diego | (619) 888-4713
 Cost: \$\$

Not quite your girlfriend but more than just a friend? Keep it laid back and fun with a drink or two at one of San Diego's hidden speakeasies. Don't forget to text for a reservation in advance because the 32-seat bar is always busy.



ENOTECA ADRIANO
 4864 Cass St., San Diego (Pacific Beach)
 Cost: \$\$

No need to hop on a plane for an authentic Italian meal, just drive down to PB's neighborhood gem. It's upscale without the pretentious servers. I'm no Italian expert, but they serve up a mean Ravioli Rossi. Make sure to save room for the Pope's Pillow dessert. It might not get you into heaven, but it'll taste like you're already there.

EAT



BLUE APRON
 Cost: \$59.95 for three meals

Got a busy schedule and no time to make it to the grocery store? Blue Apron lets you be chef without all the hassle. Delivered right to your door, you'll receive a box of fresh ingredients (already measured out for you) and step-by-step directions ... with pictures! Next thing you know, she'll be calling you Chef Boyardee.

THE FISH SHOP
 1775 Garnet Ave., San Diego
 Cost: \$-\$\$

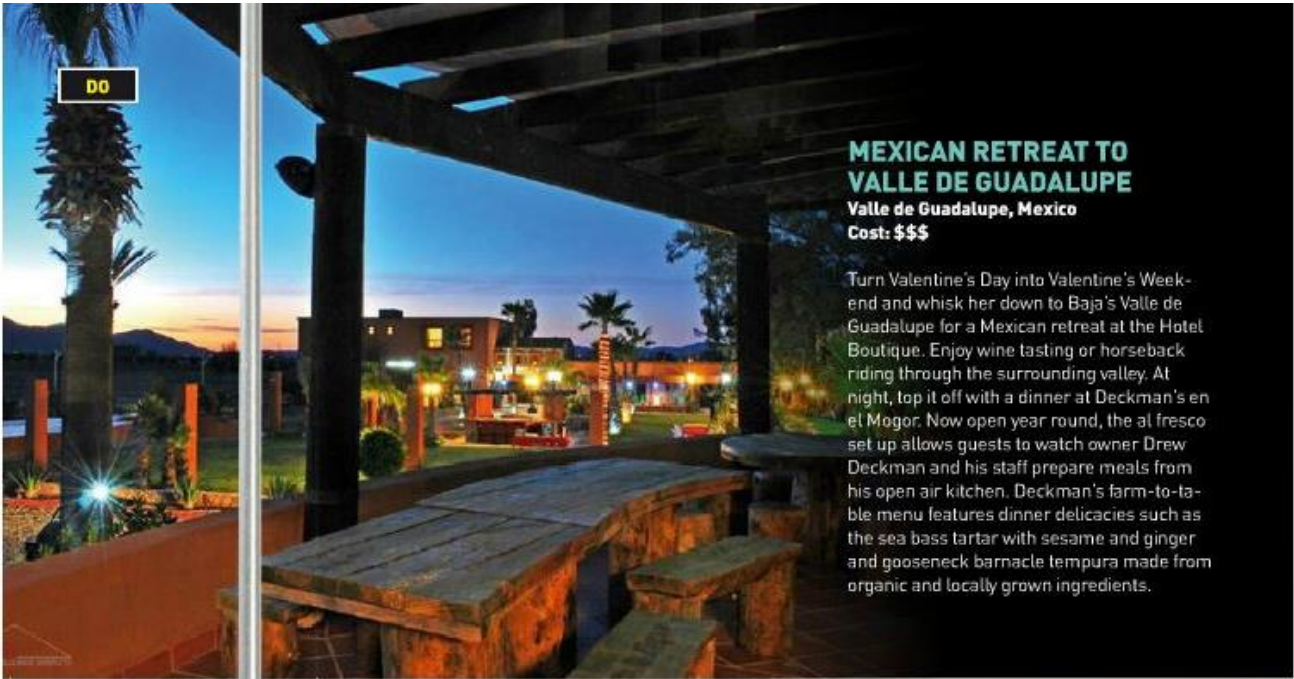
This might sound casual, but with a bring your own wine policy, drop some cash on a nice bottle of her favorite wine, grab a seat at Fish Shop's outdoor fire pit and treat her to some oysters. You know what they say about outdoor fire pits.



GEORGE'S AT THE COVE
 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla
 Cost: \$\$\$

Skip the prix-fixe menu and order the Mexican Bay Scallop Ceviche and Sesame Crusted Tombo. And if your lady gets chilly on their outdoor rooftop deck, there's an easy request for a blanket for you two to cozy on up. Remember to keep it G-rated ... you're still in public.

DO



MEXICAN RETREAT TO VALLE DE GUADALUPE

Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico

Cost: \$\$\$

Turn Valentine's Day into Valentine's Weekend and whisk her down to Baja's Valle de Guadalupe for a Mexican retreat at the Hotel Boutique. Enjoy wine tasting or horseback riding through the surrounding valley. At night, top it off with a dinner at Deckman's en el Mogor. Now open year round, the al fresco set up allows guests to watch owner Drew Deckman and his staff prepare meals from his open air kitchen. Deckman's farm-to-table menu features dinner delicacies such as the sea bass tartar with sesame and ginger and gooseneck barnacle tempura made from organic and locally grown ingredients.



STADIUM GOLF

2990 Murphy Canyon Road,
San Diego

Cost: \$

Not the mushy-gushy type? You're positive she's actually the kind of woman who would appreciate an unconventional date night, especially on Valentine's Day. Take her out to Stadium Golf for a fun night out at the driving range!

And maybe she's looking for a different type of diamond ... after the driving range, you two can head over to the center's batting cages for practice—and to prevent striking out in love this year.



HOT TUB CRUISIN'

1010 Santa Clara Place, San Diego

Cost: prices vary

We're spoiled enough as it is with our weather here in San Diego, but we all know February is not the best time to go for a dip. Though it may be too cold to jump in the bay, take her for the next best thing on the water: a Valentine's hot tub cruise! (Time machine is not included.)



RANCHO BERNARDO INN

17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, San Diego

Cost: \$ 452 for Valentine's Day package (2 nights)

Surprise her with a staycation at the luxurious Rancho Bernardo Inn. The Valentine's Day package includes lodging, sparkling wine and chocolate truffles upon arrival, dinner at AVANT and a s'mores-making kit. Really, who could say no to s'mores?



GIVE



CANVAS PHOTO PRINTING AT GEORGE'S CAMERA

3837 30th St. or 7475 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego

Cost: prices vary

Did you and your girlfriend just move into your first apartment together? Having trouble deciding how to decorate that blank wall space? Arguing over the room looking too much like a man cave? Pack up the neon Miller Lite sign and head over to George's Camera. She'll go gaga over a blown up canvas photo of the two of you from your most recent trip.



JET SET CANDY

MyJetSetCandy.com

Cost: \$98

She likes jewelry but you're not ready to put a ring on it: Never fear. Jet Set Candy has got you covered with a San Diego travel charm (in gold or silver) that can be made into a necklace or bracelet. It's like magic: giving her two gifts for the price of one.



HYDRATING FACIAL FROM ISABELA SKINCARE

1111 Fort Stockton Dr., Suite #6, San Diego

Cost: \$99

Okay, so she's the girlie type. Pamper her with a hydrating facial so she gets that Valentine's Day sparkle, regardless if you even know what a hydrating facial is. Her skin will love the moisturizing treatment that will leave her with a fresh, radiant glow. Again, I understand if you're confused, but shhh ... just buy it.



BLINK LASH BOUTIQUE

337 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach

Cost: \$149

What woman doesn't love a makeover? Eyelash extensions aren't just for celebrities anymore. Set her up with an appointment at Blink Lash Boutique for your gal to add some subtle sexiness to her look. Expert tip: Give her this as an early V-Day gift so she can use it prior to that romantic dinner you've got planned.



ALEX & ANI

AlexAndAni.com

Cost: \$32

Do you have that hardcore sports fan girlfriend who already has every San Diego Chargers themed jersey, hat, keychain, bumper sticker, phone case, sweatshirt, socks, water bottle, etc.? To add to her collection, gift her with an Alex & Ani Chargers charm bracelet. Soon enough, it'll become her game day good luck charm.



TIJON

7853 Herschel Ave., La Jolla

Cost: \$100

Instead of picking from the thousands of perfumes at the department store, sign her up with a class at Tijon for her to create her own fragrance. I know what you're thinking: "But she'll think I'm telling her she smells!" Get over your gift-giving fear; trust me, she'll love it.



TRASHY CHIC

TrashyChicJewelry.com

Cost: \$38

"Timeless treasures" designed and created using finds amongst new and reclaimed brass, silver, gold and various metals. Trashy Chic Jewelry is designed for those with a conscious and imaginative heart. Appreciating the story and process behind each Trashy Chic piece of jewelry is what sets the work apart.