



“The fragrance always remains in the hand that gives the rose”

—Heda Bejar

Forget the traditional long stemmed rose. Visit Convallaria Floral Design in Mississauga and discover some amazingly unique designs in both dried and fresh flowers. The dried flowers will last all year, to remind that special someone you were thinking of them. A small, boutique shop with helpful staff for the helpless—and for the time crunched; you can even shop online (orders@convallaria.com). Sherwood Forrest Shopping Village, 1900 Dundas St. W, 905.403.9117.

“There is no love sincerer than the love of food”



—George Bernard Shaw

Famous for its world-class chocolates, Bernard Callebaut in Oakville offers delights that taste even better than they smell, which is heavenly. Forget about the New Year's diet resolution for this one day and indulge yourself (and your loved one... make sure some of them make it home!). You'll find some of the gooiest, sweetest pieces of candy you've ever tasted—could be melted down for body paint in theory. Visit 194 Lakeshore Rd. E or www.bernardcallebaut.com.

In Mississauga, conveniently located in Square One Shopping Centre, you'll find Purdy's Chocolate (905.897.1445), who offer an amazing display of both boxed and individually sold chocolates and nuts. Pick these up on the way to the mall's lingerie store...



“To be in love is to touch with a lighter hand”



—Gwendolyn Brooks

For that overworked, overtired and totally deserving woman in your life, a total body massage or relaxing facial will have her floating home to you. The Sherwood Village Spa offers packages whimsically titled “The Rejuvenation,” or “The Rejoice,” which will literally transform and transcend her from tip to toe. Make sure that the pedicure and manicure doesn't go to waste on a night out, and check out the professional make up applications available as well (not recommended same day as facial).

Or, take in a total sensory experience and book a night for two in a cozy suite. The Glen Erin Inn's “Valentines Romantic Escape” package includes overnight accommodation in a suite, complete with a bottle of sparkling wine and some decadent chocolate truffles, to be enjoyed before or after a four course, candle-lit dinner in their cozy and romantic dining room. Continental breakfast the next morning for those who have, *ahem*, worked up an appetite is also offered in the \$399 per couple package. If you can't break away for the night, their “Valentine's Dinner Celebration” is available for only \$64 per person, between Feb. 12 and 14. The Glen Erin Inn is located at 1695 The Collegeway. Call 905.828.6103 or visit www.glenerininn.com. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Dinner AND a show AND more? “This package will make any guy look amazing and it is all done for him!” says Laurie Wallace-Lynch, director of marketing/public relations at Stage West All-Suite Hotel and Theatre Restaurant in Mississauga. Their Valentine's hotel/theatre package includes two tickets to their “California Dreaming: A Musical Revue” show, with a buffet dinner, bottle of wine, chocolate truffles and a rose. After the show, spend a night in one of their suites and wake up to a fabulous buffet breakfast. If you want to “kick it up a notch,” upgrade to a jacuzzi suite for just \$60 more per package and all of your dreams will come true, promises Wallace-Lynch. Available between Feb. 11 and 14, starting at \$335.99. Stage West is located at 5400 Dixie Rd., or book online at www.stagewest.com. Call 905.238.0042.



Planning a Valentine's Day “event” together can be the most romantic part, and many couples find their own special traditions together.

Mississauga's Rita Dias and her husband Derek enjoy “taking a walk through the woods at the University of Toronto/Mississauga campus. There is a little pond with a curved stone bridge over top of it; deer; trees; an artists' residence tucked away.” It's simple and romantic.

Suzanne Wilcox of North Toronto tells of a unique evening: “A friend of mine dressed up in her wedding gown and her husband rented a tuxedo and they had a romantic dinner for two at home on Valentine's Day. It became their little ritual, although order-in Chinese was the dinner after the first year.”

Vogels says that even singles are getting over their cynicism of the date and are overcoming the feeling that they need to be with someone. “They're getting together with their single friends or pampering themselves with a spa day or bubble bath.” There's always someone to love!

romantic notions

Of all the holidays we celebrate, this is truly the one where “it's the thought that counts.” Think about the following when planning your special day:

- **Be thoughtful.** If your special someone has spent the last six weeks sticking to their diet resolution, don't ruin it with one box of chocolates.
- **Be practical.** Fresh flowers don't last longer than a week. Look for potted plants or dried flower to get the same message across and have something lasting.
- **Be impulsive.** Always wanted to stop in at the lingerie or “Adults Only” store down the street? Perfect opportunity. Do it!
- **Be sincere.** If Valentine's Day itself seems too manufactured and phony for you, do celebrate on a special day which can be meaningful for both of you—make sure you have plans made on Valentine's Day to ensure you mean it.

Old Barber House

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Old Barber House

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