

San Diego Food Finds BLOG

San Diego's best restaurants, markets and local culinary offerings/PO Box 675362, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Valentine's Day Destinations

January 21, 2017 [Maria Desiderata Montana](#) [Food and Drink](#), [Food and Wine](#), [Food News](#), [San Diego Events](#)

Love is in the air at San Diego restaurants and hotels. Find your inner foodie and step out of your comfort zone this February 14th. From sweet cocktails and multi-course menus, to decadent deserts, these restaurants have your Valentine's Day covered!

Tower23 Hotel and JRDN Restaurant

Make your Valentine's Day extra sweet this year at Tower23 Hotel and JRDN Restaurant. Do you *Love to Indulge?* Then we have the perfect package for you. Enjoy the ultimate lovers' getaway with surprises such as chocolate-dipped strawberries, a bouquet of roses, Lovers' Massage Oil, and a Veuve Clicquot Brut Rose Breakfast in Bed. Prices start at \$459 per night. For those hoping to turn their Valentine's Day up a notch, try the *Sex on the Beach* hotel package which includes dinner and cocktails for two, Breakfast in Bed each morning, an in-room couple's massage, and valet parking. Rates start at \$509 per night and require a minimum two-night stay. All V-Day specials run through February 28th. t23hotel.com

Decoy Dockside Dining

Cozy up with your loved one on Lake San Marcos this Valentine's Day and enjoy a romantic boat ride and dinner at Decoy Dockside Dining. The *Love Boat* special includes a three-course gourmet meal, a bottle of either red, white or sparkling wine, and a boat ride. This package is extremely limited with only four reservations available; two at 5 p.m. and two at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14th. Please call the marina at (760) 653-3222 to reserve your spot. lakehousehotelandresort.com

Dave & Buster's in Carlsbad

Couples who play together, stay together. Mix up your Valentine's Day and challenge your significant other to a round of healthy competition at the brand new Dave & Buster's in Carlsbad. Choose from hundreds of games including Ghostbusters, Star Trek, Skee-ball and more, before enjoying delicious American fare like

our Crispy Nashville-Style Hot Chicken from Dave & Buster's BRAND NEW menu. Sip on craft cocktails such as the Black Raspberry Proseccorita, made with Prosecco, Blue Agave Silver tequila, black raspberry and lime sour mix, and cheers to the perfect night of romance. daveandbusters.com



Sweet Petite Confections' Valentine 2017 Chocolates

JSIX

Executive Chef Anthony Sinsay and Sous-Chef Ashley Kato are preparing a decadent three-course dinner that is sure to delight your taste buds this February 14. These two San Diego top chefs are sure to impress you with dishes such as *Pacific Oysters* served with a passion fruit mignonette; *Maine Lobster Tagliatelle* made with lemon-dill, snap peas, and black trumpet mushrooms; and *Chocolate Pot de Crème* a coffee streusel with candied citron for dessert. Dinner is available from 5-10 p.m. and priced at \$55 per person. jsixrestaurant.com

Don Chido

Let's taco 'bout the place to be this Valentine's Day, Don Chido! Located in the heart of the Gaslamp District, Don Chido is the perfect place for a casual yet delicious Valentine's Day date night. With \$4 Mexican beers, \$5 tequila shots, and \$5 margaritas and \$2 carne, chicken or carnitas tacos, singles and couples alike will be feeling the love (and the tequila!)

Rustic Root

Rustic Root will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a three-course prix fixe menu prepared by Executive Chef Marcel Childress. Menu highlights include roasted red bell pepper soup, roasted jidori chicken roulade and a chocolate s'mores cake. The menu is priced at \$50 per person and selections are subject to change. Reservations may be made by calling [619.232.1747](tel:619.232.1747).



Venissimo Cheese at Flower Hill Promenade

Venissimo Cheese at Flower Hill Promenade is offering a special “Chocolate and Bubbles” evening where friends and lovebirds alike are invited to pair a delicious selection of cheeses, scrumptious chocolates and flowing champagne for the ultimate decadent food experience. The hands-on (and taste bud-friendly) class will share the secrets of how to perfectly pair cocoa, effervescent bubbles and cheese to create a tasty trinity of flavors. Experience a plethora of scrumptious samples in an intimate setting on Monday, February 13 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Reservations can be made at <http://www.venissimo.com> for \$60 per person.

AVANT at Rancho Bernardo Inn

This Valentine’s Day, sweep that special someone away to Rancho Bernardo Inn’s signature restaurant, AVANT, boasting sweeping views of the golf course paired with a specialty Valentine’s Day menu. Couples can indulge in a decadent four-course meal, delighting the palette with starters such as a parsnip bisque or Dungeness crab salad with pomelo, avocado, cilantro and jalapeño. Guests can then choose between pan seared foie gras, rich scallop and butternut risotto, or a mouth watering duck leg confit for the second course. Rounding out the romantic meal are delicious entree options including veal osso buco, a classic “New York” strip, or a savory cauliflower and walnut ravioli. Finish the evening with a sweet red velvet cheesecake, or opt for long stemmed chocolate dipped strawberries accompanied by a Champagne pipette, chocolate ganache and gold dust. The specialty four-course prix fixe Valentine’s Day dinner is accompanied with live music and is \$85/\$120 with wine pairings. Reservations can be made by calling [844.226.2044](tel:844.226.2044).

Veranda Fireside Lounge & Restaurant, at Rancho Bernardo Inn

Inspired by the olive trees, gardens and villas that dot the Mediterranean coastline, [Veranda Fireside Lounge & Restaurant](#) at Rancho Bernardo Inn melds the classic and the unexpected, making it the perfect place to toast to love. This Valentine’s Day, Veranda is offering a romantic three-course dinner starting with a first course comprised of refreshing coastal flavors such as a poached lobster, lamb lettuce wraps, or a yellowfin tuna nori roll. Couples can then indulge in a choice between a savory grilled beef tenderloin, or a pan seared sea bass with roasted root vegetables, and finish with a selection of desserts. Enjoy the special three-course prix-fixe dinner featuring live music for \$65/\$95 with wine pairings. *Menu subject to change based on Chef’s whim. Reservations can be made by calling [855.421.0268](tel:855.421.0268).

Sally’s Fish House & Bar

This Valentine's Day, spread the romance with dinner reservations and a picturesque bayfront view at Sally's Fish House & Bar, located at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on Gaslamp Quarter's waterfront. With its coastal-inspired menu featuring local ingredients and unforgettable flavors, Sally's Fish House & Bar has become one of San Diego's best-kept secrets and most romantic waterfront seafood dining restaurants. Couples can toast to their love with a complimentary glass of sparkling rosé as they enjoy unforgettable views of the San Diego Bay and beyond either from outside on the restaurant's expanded deck amongst warm fire pits, or through floor-to-ceiling windows from inside the dining room and bar. Special for Valentine's Day, guests can delight in a three-course prix fixe menu for \$65 per person with menu highlights that include wood fire-grilled octopus, sautéed diver scallops and butter poached Kauai prawns, Sally's Valentine dessert sampler and more.

Tidal at Paradise Point Resort & Spa

Lovebirds looking to swoon over bay front views this Valentine's Day will go head over heels for Paradise Point Resort & Spa's seaside restaurant, Tidal. With menu options ranging from sea to land, Tidal exemplifies the definition of where craft and catch converge. Special for Valentine's Day, couples can delight in an 8-course dinner beginning with foie gras macaroons as an amuse bouche, followed by oysters and caviar, a charred cabbage salad with butter poached lobster, veal sweetbread risotto, Kobe beef with Arcadian potato, creamed kale, butternut squash, and bone marrow bordelaise, and more.

The Commons

Searching for something fun to do with a group of singles on Valentine's Day? Look no further than Downtown San Diego favorite, The Commons. Every Tuesday, The Commons hosts its popular "Acoustic Tuesdays," where guests can enjoy live music in addition to delicious appetizers and tasty cocktails. This lively bar atmosphere is perfect for those looking for a casual yet fun Valentine's Day outing.

Harrah's Resort Southern California

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Harrah's Resort Southern California and indulge in a decadent three-course meal at [Fiore Steakhouse](#). The meal starts with an heirloom beet torte with glazed baby heirloom beet, lavender goat cheese, and port wine followed by a yellowfin ahi tuna duo. For the first-course, guests will enjoy an SR76 wheat Beer fonduta with lamb chopper cheese, artisan bread, fresh apples, and baby vegetables. Second-course options include smoked octopus salad with firs, wild rocket, blood orange, citrus pepper vinaigrette, and spiced chickpea or creamy french onion soup with house beef broth, sherry, fresh

cream, Jarlsberg, and sourdough crisp. As an entree, diners can choose from petite beef filet and jumbo shrimp with certified Angus natural beef, port wine shallot, jumbo white shrimp, and sauce vierge or crab stuffed dover sole with lump blue crab, savory spinach, creole mustard cream, dried tomato, and orechiette. The delectable meal ends with a disappearing white chocolate dome with luxardo cherry nitro ice cream, molten dark chocolate, and gold leaf. Valentine's Day dinner at Fiore Steakhouse is \$150 per couple, for a reservation call [760.751.3100](tel:760.751.3100). Additionally, [The Cafe](#) at Harrah's Resort SoCal is offering a \$29.99 (per person) meal consisting a grilled 1855 8 oz. New York steak and grilled honey glazed salmon with roasted Yukon gold potatoes, grilled asparagus, choice of soup or salad, and crème brulee.

Seasons Restaurant at Four Seasons Residence Club Aviara

Newly open to the public, San Diego couples are invited to prepare for the day of love with engaging culinary classes and delectable cuisine at Seasons Restaurant. The Tequila and Chocolate Pairing on Tuesday, February 7th at 3:00 p.m. allows guests to experience exceptional anejos and reposados paired with housemate chocolates and truffles while The Foods of Love aphrodisiac-themed cooking class on Thursday, February 9th at 3:00 p.m. teaches participants how to bring their "A" Game when cooking Valentine's Day dinner. The Tequila and Chocolate Pairing is \$35 per person and The Foods of Love cooking class is \$45 per person. For reservations call [\(760\) 814-8677](tel:760.814.8677).

Locals and resort guests alike can also celebrate Valentine's Day under the stars at Seasons Restaurant and indulge in a decadent three-course meal created by Chef de Cuisine Conor Ball with seasonal and locally sourced ingredients. The meal starts with a local oyster appetizer served with caviar, creme fraiche, and tarragon, followed by a first-course choice of textures of apple, smoked, foamed, and soiled or butter poached lobster with pear, citrus, and uni. Next guests can enjoy venison loin with quinoa, beet root, and currant; ahi tuna with pine nuts, fennel, and lovage; or ricotta gnocchi with kale, truffle, and lemon. Lastly, diners will finish the delectable meal with a choice of dark chocolate semi fredo with hazelnut, branded cherries, and meringue or rhubarb anna cotta with rose petal and pomegranate. Seasons Restaurant puts a fresh, modern twist on California coastal cuisine blending simple, locally sourced ingredients with flavours from international cultures using creativity and trend forward techniques. The restaurant showcases a stylish blend of modern mission architecture and local beach town charm. Valentine's Day dinner at Seasons Restaurant is \$70 per person or \$90 per person with wine pairings. For reservations call [\(760\) 603-3700](tel:760.603.3700).

THE US GRANT

This Valentine's Day, experience a night to remember in the heart of San Diego's thriving Gaslamp District. For couples looking for a romantic destination downtown, guests and locals alike are welcomed to enjoy a 3-course dinner and a cabaret show hosted by THE US GRANT and presented by the iconic Lamb's Players Theater. The dinner and a show experience will be offered for three exclusive nights, on February 11, 12, and 14, and will present an evening of romantic melodies performed live by a dozen of San Diego's best singers, beside a 3-course meal including charcuterie, lobster ravioli with champagne buerre blanc, and finished with raspberry chocolate cake with a white chocolate mocha sauce. After the show, stay the night in the recently renovated property which offers a beautiful restyled lobby, guest rooms, and Presidential Suite for those looking to go over-the-top for their loved one. Tickets are \$94 per person for a table, and \$48 per person for seated chairs, sans dinner.

Monello

Nothing says "I love you" like a 40 lb. wheel of cheese. The Italian eatery is spreading the love this Valentine's Day by offering two options hot from the cheese wheel: Risotto with imported truffle or Spaghetti all'Amatriciana. Please note that Monello is closed on Mondays and therefore this \$40 dinner special will be available on Saturday, February 11 through Sunday, February 12, and on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14. It'll be your cheesiest V-Day yet...in the best way. lovemonello.com

Bellamy's

Dine with your sweetheart at [Bellamy's](http://bellamysdining.com) in Escondido for an unforgettable evening. Enjoy a delectable three-course dinner prepared by Chef Patrick Ponsaty and Chef Jonathan Freyberg. Get your heart beating with first course options like Malaspina Oysters served with Sterling Caviar and Soy Yuzu or the Candy Striped Beet Soup topped off with Hazlenut Cream and Cocoa Nib. Lovers can feast on main courses like the Maine Diver Scallops served with Candied Orange, Squash-Carrot Puree and Tahitian Vanilla Sauce; a Rack of Lamb with Roasted Vegetable Tian, Fingerling Potatoes and Burgundy & Lamb Reduction; or the Grilled King Beef Filet Mignon accompanied by Asparagus, Truffle Bacon Mashed Potatoes and a Bernaise Sauce. Make this one by adding on half a Lobster Tail for a Surf 'N Turf experience. Share kisses over the shared dessert: Bellamy's Chocolate Decadence for Two. Dinners are priced at \$75 per person and wine pairings are offered for an additional \$30 per person. bellamysdining.com

The Duck Dive

Located in the heart of Pacific Beach, The Duck Dive is offering special Valentine's Day Prix Fixe menu for those looking to celebrate with their loved one along the Pacific Coast. Diners will enjoy the Chef's Whim Special, which is a Filet Mignon and Shrimp paired with Rice and Vegetables. The main course is followed a Molten Lava Cake dessert served with a scoop of ice cream. Wash this special meal down with one (or all!) of the Valentine's Day drinks: My Cherry Amour Old Fashioned, Rose Martini or the famous Trophy Wife. The dinner is \$35 per person with a la carte options available. Call now to reserve your reservations: 858.273.3825 or use the form on their website at [The Duck Dive](#).

TRUST

Celebrate your sweetie on Valentine's Day with TRUST's *Profiteroles* dessert. This cream puff pastry tower is filled with hints of apple and drizzled with sweet caramel sauce for the perfect finishing touch. TRUST will serve dinner from 5-9 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14 and Happy Hour will run as normal from 5-7 p.m. trustrestaurantsd.com

Giuseppe Fine Catering

If you're looking forward to an intimate night at home with your loved ones or friends this Valentine's Day, Giuseppe's Pronto Delivery service will help make it extra special. From mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres and entrees to innovative cocktails and desserts, Giuseppe Fine Catering will make sure you have the perfect meal and a great evening, no matter who you share it with. For a catered Valentine's Day meal, please call (858) 581-2205. www.grnfc.com

Westgate Room

The "City of Love" is right at your doorstep when you spend Valentine's Day at the Westgate Hotel. Experience a true Parisian escape with hotel getaways like the *La Vie en Rose* package, featuring a three-course dinner and wine pairing for two in the Westgate Room, an overnight stay in a premier room, late checkout and valet parking for \$469. The *Mon Amour* special includes a three-course dinner and wine pairing for two in the Westgate Room, a bottle of Pol Clement champagne in a premier room, and Sunday brunch for \$699.

On February 11 at 7 p.m., Executive Chef Fabrice Hardel is stirring up the romance in the Westgate Room with a three-course French dinner paired with fine French vintage wines and specially-crafted elixir libations for \$89 per person. Sunday brunch will be available on February 12 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for \$69 per

person and on February 14 at 7 p.m., the hotel will be serving a five-course French dinner and wine pairing accompanied by the renowned Edith Piaf's love songs, performed by Chantal Roche and her trio. Dinner is priced at \$179 per person. westgatehotel.com

Pacifica Del Mar

Enjoy dinner with a fantastic ocean view. Pacifica will be offering an a la carte menu where all entrees come with a soup or salad. Reservations from 4:30pm-10pm.

Bartender Cameron Harris will be serving a Chocolate Martini on Valentine's Day. PacificaDelMar.com

Carne Prima

Dine in sophistication. The newly opened Carne Prima sets the tone for a memorable experience. Chef Aliano Decka will prepare a 4-course menu which includes a Surf & Turf, Pan Seared Seabass, and Heart-shaped Lobster Ravioli. They will also be offering a special Valentine's Day Thyme-infused Champagne cocktail that evening. Price: \$70.

The downtown steakhouse has create a sparkling sipper Called the About Thyme with thyme-Infused Champagne and strawberry. CarnePrima.com

Cusp Dining & Drinks

It's dinner with a view from the 11th floor of Hotel La Jolla. Cusp's chef, Ingrid Funes, will be offering a 3-course meal for which comes with a complimentary glass of bubbly. Not into prix fixes? No problem. You can also order a la carte from their regular menu.

In addition to stellar ocean views this Valentines' Day, try Cusp's The Cove cocktail, made with malahat rum, zucca, demerarra, walnut bitters, and aztec chocolate. CuspRestaurant.com

The Cork & Craft

The neighborhood hot spot and its newly appointed Executive Chef, Scott Cannon, are serving a 4-course prix fixe menu with impressive selections. Order the Seared Ahi with avocado puree, shaved cucumber and papaya salad and puffed rice, Lobster and Truffle Risotto, or Wagyu Top Sirloin with blue cheese, short rib agnolotti, beet puree and charred cauliflower. To end, Pastry Chef Brenda Gonzalez has created a French

Cruller and special “Pretty in Pink” dessert. You can also snag a glass of Abnormal Beer Co.’s special Valentine’s Day brew, Hugs & Kisses. Price: \$60.

Head brewer Derek Gallanosa is collaborating with The Answer Brewery in Richmond, Virginia to create a chocolate covered strawberry imperial stout called Hugs and Kisses. You can get it in limited growler fills and distribution the weekend before Valentine’s Day, as well as for dinner at The Cork & Craft on February 14th. TheCorkandCraft.com

BiCE

BiCE sets the perfect tone for any Valentine’s Day. Select two dishes plus a dessert from their 3-course menu. Items include Chef Cassineri’s Zucchini Soup with vegetable brunoise and truffle mascarpone mousse, Pan Seared Wild Salmon with barley, quinoa, and vegetable chopped salad with pesto, and Whole Wheat Fettuccine with wild mushrooms, radicchio, brussels sprouts, parmesan, thyme and farm egg. Price: \$53.

Bartender Alex has created the Sweet Kiss, a blend of Stolichnaya vanil vodka, Godiva chocolate liquor, Godiva white chocolate liquor, Frangelico hazelnut liquor and cream. It’s finished with sugar hearts. BiceSanDiego.com

Fig Tree Café

Start the morning of love by visiting [Fig Tree Café](#) in Hillcrest, Pacific Beach, or Liberty Station. Fig Tree Café is offering two new drink specials for the entire month of February. Get a nice buzz with the Dark Chocolate Covered Strawberry Latte made with two shots of espresso and topped with house-made strawberry whipped cream, a fresh strawberry and drizzled with dark chocolate. The Floral Mimosa Flight is sure to get the heart pumping with 4 lovely mimosa choices such as the Rose garnished with dried rose, the Lavender garnished with dried lavender, the Pomegranate Hibiscus garnished with a dried hibiscus flower ice cube, and the Strawberry & Grapefruit garnished with a strawberry and thyme. All Fig Tree Café locations will be offering a free half order of the Valentine’s French Toast with the purchase of 2 entrees.

Fig Tree Café in [Liberty Station](#), the only location open for dinner, is offering a pre-fixed Valentine’s Day three-course dinner menu for \$42.50 per person. Couples can choose from a starter such as the Baby Beets and Burrata Salad made with heirloom beets, burrata and spiced pecans, the Bone Marrow, Roasted Kurobuta Pork Belly, the Crab Stack, or the Soup of the Day. For the second course, couples can choose

two entrees such as the Kurobuta Pork Chop, the Fish of the Day (ask server for details), the Portobello Napoleon, the Lobster Ravioli, or the 14oz. New York Steak. For dessert, couples can choose one dish to share such as the Crème Brule, Tiramisu, Limoncello or the Hazelnut Crunch and Chocolate Cake. Two complimentary glasses of champagne will be given to each couple to toast with.

Backyard Kitchen + Tap

For a romantic evening in the heart of Pacific Beach, [Backyard Kitchen + Tap](#) is offering a three-course menu at \$49.95 for two starting at 5:00 p.m. Couples can enjoy their first course choice of one dish to share such as the 7 Layer Hummus, the Organic Greens Salad or the Burrata Bruschetta. For their second course choice of one entree each, couples can choose from the Mushroom Ravioli, the Chipotle Rubbed Sirloin, or the Brick Jerk Chicken. For the third course choice of one to share, couples can enjoy a sweet dessert such as the Chocolate Decadent Cake or the Lemon Meringue Tartlets. Reservations are not required but encouraged.

PB AleHouse

Also located in Pacific Beach, [PB AleHouse](#) is offering a three-course Valentine's Day menu starting at 5:00 p.m. for \$60 per couple. Reservations are not required but encouraged. For the first course, couples can select a starter to share such as the Baked Brie, the Warm Crab Dip, the Honeymoon Oysters, or the Tempura Baby Octopus. For the second course, couples can select their own dish or a choice of two between dishes such as the Langostino Scampi, the Braised Short Rib, the Seared Albacore, or the Boursin Stuffed Chicken. For the third course, couples can share the Spiced Hot Chocolate Shots, Chocolate Covered Strawberries, and the Vanilla Crème Brule.

Union Kitchen + Tap

[Union Kitchen + Tap](#) is the Gaslamp quarter is offering a dinner for two on Valentine's Day, along with live acoustics from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A three-course dinner is offered at \$95 per couple and includes one shared appetizer, two entrees, one shared dessert and either a bottle of wine or a bottle of champagne.

SWEET PETITE CONFECTIONS'



Inspiration board created by fashion designer-turned-chocolatier Michelle Lomelin before dreaming up her Valentine 2017 bonbon collection

Valentine Bonbons: For Valentine's Day, Chocolatier Michelle Lomelin will offer 5 and 16-piece bonbons inspired by all things steampunk! Blending industrial and fantastical elements with a dash of romance, Sweet Petite Confections' Valentine bonbons feature colorful designs and limited-time flavors like Peaches & Cream, Cafe con Cajeta, Mimosa, Lilikoi and Veuve Clicquot. Bonbons are priced at \$13.50 for a 5-piece set and \$32 for a 16-piece box, and can be purchased in-store and [online](#) beginning January 27, alongside a selection of other chocolates.

Chocolate Making Classes: On Saturday, Feb. 11 from 12:30 to 3 p.m., chocolatier Michelle Lomelin will lead a "Make Sweets with Your Sweetheart" chocolate class. Participants will fill chocolate molds with champagne caramel and serrano chili ganache among other flavors, and will use ingredients like raspberries, strawberries and candied bacon to personalize their own chocolate bark. Students leave with approximately 1.5 lbs of chocolate. Each class is \$40 per person (or parent-child team). Classes are all ages and reservations must be placed in advance [online](#) or by calling (858) 688-0210.

Hard Cider and Chocolate Pairing: Perfect as a pre-dinner date, Sweet Petite Confections will host a Julian Ciderworks chocolate pairing on Friday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. This tasting will feature a variety of hard

ciders from Julian Ciderworks – one of San Diego’s only cider houses to use solely Julian apples in their locally crafted libations – paired with a selection of Sweet Petite Confections’ Valentine chocolates. This 21+ event is \$30 per person. Reservations are available [online](#) and by calling (858) 688-0210.

About Sweet Petite Confections:

Sweet Petite Confections is an artisan confectionary specializing in colorful and seasonal bonbons, meltaways, barks, salted caramels and more. Its location on the border of Bay Park and Clairemont includes a retail shop with playful chocolates, a pink-floored open kitchen where monthly classes and tastings occur, and custom chocolate services. Sweet Petite Confections uses high quality, ethically sourced chocolate and owner-chocolatier Michelle Lomelin frequently sources local ingredients for her creations. Sweet Petite Confections is located at 3582 Mount Acadia Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92111 and can be reached at (858) 688-0210. Connect online at www.sweetpetiteconfections.com and Instagram using [@SweetPetiteConf](#).