

Five ways to make Valentine's Day special

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If you've waited until the 11th hour to think about a romantic Valentine's Day evening, fear not. Just enough time remains to pull off something special, perhaps to even make a statement. These five dates could prove to a significant other — or to yourself — that you ...

... are inspired by sensitive music:

Members of several local bands, including Snowden and Dropsonic, will gather at **the EARL** to cover the wistfully romantic music of Tim and Jeff Buckley, the father and son singer-songwriters who barely knew one another in life but who both died tragically at young ages, cementing a double legacy as young, tortured, talented and soulful. Pop into one of the area's many coffee shops (a scene the younger Buckley rose to fame in) to complete the experience.



9 p.m. Feb. 14, \$8. 468 Flat Shoals Ave., East Atlanta. www.badearl.com

... know where the party is:

Valentine's Day could easily be the signature cocktail's favorite holiday. And bar events, unlike dinner, generally don't require reservations. Try **Eclipse di Luna**, 764 Miami Circle, Atlanta, for a South Beach-inspired soiree with DJ Mike Smith and percussionist DeShaun Williams performing while the bar slings strawberry and ginger mojitos, chocolate kiss and berry love martinis and a special Red Bull drink. Admission is free, and the party goes until 2:30 a.m. Or head over to **Ten Pin Alley**, 261 19th St., Atlanta, for the Live Your Life singles party with DJs and drink specials, including the \$6 Cupid's Arrow cocktail. Doors open at 9 p.m. \$10 cover. Alternatively, the dim lights, disco ball and retro décor at **Johnny's Hideaway**, 3771 Roswell Road N.E., Atlanta, create a lounge experience lacking in an uptown vibe. Sip whiskey sours at the plushy red



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bar and drink in an old-school kind of romance.

... have a (right) brain:

Art and romance collide at the **High's Valentine's Day bash**, and the museum is welcoming last-minute reservations as well as Feb. 14 walk-ups. A well-rounded evening among the seven permanent collections and three current exhibitions — including “The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army” and “Louvre Atlanta” — features salsa dance lessons with Mezcolanza Dance Company to live Latin jazz, love and romance-themed gallery tours, a reading of Chinese love poems, along with pampering chair massages and paraffin hand dips. Hors d'oeuvres, a dinner entree, desserts and cocktails will be sold all night. 6-10 p.m. Feb. 14. High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St., Atlanta. \$25 per person; \$40 per couple; members admitted free; dates of members with dual or family status admitted free. 404-733-5000, www.high.org.

... can pull off a restaurant-quality meal at home (no cooking required):

Call today by 5 p.m. to bring home a five-course (and five-star) meal for two (\$125) right off the menu of **Bacchanalia**. The mise en place includes lobster bisque, choice of wood-grilled tenderloin of prime beef or Scottish salmon, roasted fingerling potatoes, a heart-shaped Camembert with baguette, chocolate and

hazelnut trifle and rose macaroons. Pick up this top-tier takeout at Star Provisions, where bottles of wine, champagne and last-minute gifts also are available. Instructions are included, but one need only reheat, executive chef/owner Anne Quatrano assures. Call 404-365-0410 to reserve. 1198 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta. www.starprovisions.com.

And without any reservations, **Whole Foods** is once again shaking off its high-price rep in favor of to-go Valentine's deals on the fly, including two dozen roses wrapped and bowed for \$19.99, plus dinner for two for \$14.99, including a choice of one of three entrees, with a side dish and a heart-shaped chocolate cake for dessert. Throw a bottle or two of Scranto Moscato in the cart (\$9.99 each) to complete the experience or grab a festive and eco-friendly box and pull together eight 12-ounce bottles of the brews of your choice for the Sweet-heart Beer Sampler for \$12.99. At all area Whole Foods and Harry's.

... can think outside the box (of candy):

Produce an unusual gift to woo a flame or take the family out for a different kind of Valentine's Day activity at **Cacao**, 312 C N. Highland Ave., Atlanta. Elegant dark chocolates will be the building blocks for a self-made gift that's like a Valentine's equivalent to the mix tape. Call ahead, 404-221-2626, or e-mail

caline@cacaoatlanta.com to secure a spot from 5 to 7 p.m. today or between noon and 2 p.m. Saturday for this make-your-own-chocolate workshop led by owner and master chocolatier Kristen Hard or general manager Lauren Gosnell. The 30-minute session will be inside the 3,000-square-foot chocolate laboratory generally closed to the public. The workshop is \$20 (plus the price per pound of the chocolate).

