

Prepare A Romantic Dinner At Home For Valentine's Day

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By Christine Steendahl

Remember those pre-child days when you would go out to a fancy restaurant or spend the

weekend at a romantic get-away to celebrate Valentine's Day? That may not be an option this year, but you can still enjoy a romantic dinner with your spouse. Here are a few ideas on how you can easily create a romantic Valentine's Day dinner at home.

Creating The Menu This is the perfect time for some "Grown-up" food. Cook a separate dinner for the kids or order in some pizza. Let the kids eat an early dinner and then send them off to play, or watch a movie while the two of you enjoy your meal. If your children are really young, you may want to put them to bed before you sit down for your Valentine's Day dinner.

Cooking a restaurant inspired meal doesn't have to be complicated. Pick up some mini-quiches in your grocers frozen food section and bake them up as an appetizer. For a first course pick up a can of gourmet style soup that you just need to heat up. Garnish with a dollop of sour cream and some fresh herbs for visual appeal.

Choose a main dish that you can prepare ahead of time, so you can enjoy the evening. Good choices are baked salmon or chicken. Just place either one in a baking dish, add whichever marinade you prefer and refrigerate. When you are ready just bake it until it's done. Serve with mixed greens and fancy store-bought vinaigrette. Grab French bread, or fix some wild rice.

Dessert could be anything from cheesecake with fresh fruit, to chocolate dipped strawberries to chocolate mouse that you can make ahead and refrigerate. Or serve assorted cheeses with a nice glass of red wine.

Setting The Scene Set the table with a tablecloth, cloth napkins and candles. Take out your good china and crystal. Since dinner will be just for the two of you, you don't have to worry about damaging any of your special tableware. Now is the perfect time to enjoy all these fancy goodies you received as wedding gifts.

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Take the time to dress up, and do your hair and makeup. I feel sure your spouse will appreciate it and you will feel like you are actually going out. For even more fun get ready in separate rooms and ask your date to come pick you up.

Turn down the lights and light the candles. Play some soft, romantic music, or some songs that have special meaning for the two of you. You never know, with the right music, your romantic Valentine's Day dinner may end with some slow dancing in your dining room.

Staying in doesn't mean you can't have a wonderful romantic Valentine's Day dinner. You never know, this may turn out to be the most romantic Valentine's date yet.

Christine Steendahl Is The Founder Of Dine Without Whine - Your Number One Online Source For Affordable And Family Friendly Weekly Meal Planning. Eliminate The Dinner Hour Stress And

Re-Discover The Pleasure Of The Dinner Hour! For A Free Sample Menu And Grocery List Visit

<http://www.dinewithoutwhine.com/info>

A Valentine Surprise

By Larry Redalia

It's Valentine's Day in the year 1994. A day for romantics and lovers to be together. However, my wife Debra and I had a problem.

She was working in Sacramento, California doing a photo shoot for a catalog copywriting job she had. It was supposed to be for two days and she would be home for Valentine's Day. But it ran overtime and she had to stay in Sacramento for Valentine's Day and the day after.

Debra had not told me where she was staying or working. I had no address or telephone number, and this was in the days before she had a cell phone. I don't know Sacramento at all. My only experience of it was I had driven through it on the freeway a few times on my way to Lake Tahoe. It's a large city with a population of about one million or so. I didn't even have a city map.

Despite all these apparent barriers and difficulties, I decided that I would be with Debra today. She is my Valentine and I want to be with her.

The decision was very clear: I'm going to be with Debra today.

I got into my little truck and simply drove the ninety miles to Sacramento. While driving I thought to myself, "This is silly, I don't even know where she is in Sacramento." I shoved this thought aside and simply intended to drive where she was.

"Sacramento, next 22 exits," read the sign. Which exit should I take? Quite clearly, I got "Take the third

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exit."

I took the third exit and made two rights and a left into a large parking lot. I didn't know where I was. It didn't matter, though. At that moment, Debra walked right in front of my car! She had just finished her photo shoot and had driven back to her hotel, ready for dinner. So I took her to a nice romantic restaurant.

At dinner, Debra asked, "How did you find me? I didn't give you the address or phone number or anything."

I replied, "It's Valentine's Day. I wanted to be with you so I drove to where you were."

Then I gave her a big grin. A clear intention can work wonders.

Larry Redalia is a regular contributor to "Signs of Spirit", a free weekly newsletter with amazing, true, real-life stories about being a spirit. To read more stories like this, visit

<http://www.signs-of-spirit.com>



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