

## Love for Golf And Life Should be a Year~round Affair

By Laura Stewart

The holidays are over (sigh). The golf season is over (bigger sigh). What is there to possibly look forward to? Drum roll please... VALENTINE'S DAY! Not only is Valentine's Day upon us, it is on a Saturday this year. So you don't just have one day to celebrate but an entire glorious weekend!

Just kidding. But seriously, since it falls on a weekend this year, don't do the obligatory, unremarkable routine of just going out to dinner. Do something different, create a lasting memory, dare I say...look forward to Valentine's Day this year. So here are a few ideas to help you enjoy some of the abundant food and wine activities around our region, do something adventurous outdoors or just plan something intimate in the comfort of your

own home. Good luck men, I know you can do it!

1. Amador County Wine "Cellarbration." On Saturday, February 14th & Sunday, February 15th Amador County is hosting an event called Behind the Cellar Door. Twenty eight area wineries are offering wine tasting, live music and seminars. For more information, visit <http://amadorwine.com> or call (209)245-6992. Cheers!

2. Host a savvy interactive dinner party with cooking demonstrations for your single & married friends. This is a hot new trend in the culinary industry where a Personal Chef will come in and prepare a 3-5 course dinner, pair wines with each course and put on cooking demonstrations. It's like having Emeril Lagasse in your home to make dinner without all the loud "Bam" rhetoric. It makes for a fun and entertaining evening for all.

3. Don't go to the spa, bring home the spa. You will find that most massage therapists don't charge anything more by coming to you, and what a nice way to spend

the evening. Splurge and get a couple's massage and unwind together. Afterwards enjoy a flute of champagne and you've got a perfect date in the comfort of your own home.

4. Okay, it is still permissible to go out to dinner for Valentine's Day... especially somewhere special. My somewhere special is Ella in downtown Sacramento. Every year we go there for my birthday but I wouldn't mind making it a Valentines Day ritual too, especially after I saw their prix fixed menu for this year's dinner. Check it out at [www.elladiningroomandbar.com](http://www.elladiningroomandbar.com). Or visit [www.yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com) or [www.opentable.com](http://www.opentable.com) to read reviews of the best restaurants in your area. Bon Apétit!

5. Dine in...Do something especially romantic and hire a Personal Chef to come and cook a romantic dinner for two in your home. A personal chef will customize a menu and create a gourmet culinary experience that will be an evening to remember. This is a wonderful idea for anniversaries too; it is the ultimate romance gesture!

6. Go ice skating. Create a memorable day by taking a scenic aerial cable car ride up to the crest of Squaw Valley's upper mountain to their Olympic Ice Pavilion. Experience breathtaking panoramic views of the Squaw Valley Meadow, Lake Tahoe & the surrounding Sierra Nevada. Hockey or figure skate rentals are available, open daily 11AM-7PM.

I hope you are now finally psyched about celebrating Valentine's Day and actually wishing it always fell on a Saturday. But don't you worry because next year it is on a Sunday so you will still have a full weekend to express your romantic prowess! (Biggest sigh)

Ok, so I helped you out for Valentines day, but take my word for it, these romantic ideas work for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays or any other day of the year to show your loved ones how much you care for them. They are great investments in relationships...and a lot of fun as well.

Enjoy.



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