



by Mitchell Earrey

Splash

FEBRUARY 2013

"Where there is no wine there is no love."

February is, maybe for some more than others, a month for love. Working in the service industry since I was a very young boy, I have spent many Valentine's Days within the walls of a restaurant.

Some say that love makes one do crazy things. Others just say love makes YOU crazy. I have yet to decide which of these a more accurate statement is. However, I have seen many crazy things on the supposed "day of love" while working in restaurants.

Couples that typically do not venture outside their homes for dinner, flock in masses to restaurants. So, there will be many people having dinner or drinks on Valentine's Day in a restaurant or social environment with which they are utterly unfamiliar. For this reason, servers and bartenders secretly refer to the night of Valentine's Day as "amateur night."

Now, let's take a step back for just a second. It's not that servers and bartenders think that everybody is a moron that visits a new restaurant on Valentine's Day. Every restaurant and bar has its unique set of rules, expectations, and culture. This includes everything from tipping etiquette to behavioral actions. So, if you do plan on going out to wine and dine your sweetheart, do a little research. Check out the restaurant's website. Peruse the menu. Verify the dress code. Inspect the wine list, and maybe even get some wine pairings picked out. If there are some menu items that you are unfamiliar with, do a little more research. All this would be, of course, unbeknownst to your darling. This way, when you are actually at the restaurant, it seems as if you already knew what a "torchon" is or what a "fiambre" is made of.



...servers and bartenders secretly refer to the night of Valentine's Day as "amateur night."

The alternative to dining out would be, clearly, dining in. If you and your paramour opt to stay in on Valentine's Day night, keep things simple when it comes to dinner. The whole point of staying in is to be able to enjoy each other's company more. If one of you is occupied in the kitchen, the purpose is defeated. Keep your menu undemanding yet satisfying. Don't get bogged down with fancy cooking techniques or convoluted sauces. Of course... there's always take out.

When all is said and done, Valentine's Day is and will always be a day for romance. So do something unexpected. Surprise your sweetie... Champagne, dancing, a night out of town... something far-flung from your norm. Regardless of age or gender, getting swept off of your feet by the one you love never gets old.

Questions for Mitchell? Just ask! Email MitchellE@bravobuzz.com
And visit bravobuzz.com to see the BRAVO wine list, BRAVO cocktails,
wine tasting events, or to sign up for e-mail notifications.

B·R·A·V·O·!
ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

 @bravowine
601-982-8111 bravobuzz.com