



Cast iron heart Dutch oven by Martha Stewart Collection, \$99.99 at Macy's, Cambridge, 617-621-3800, macys.com



First Comes Love heart bottle stopper by Mariposa, \$26 at Bliss Home, 147 Nahant Road, Nahant, 781-631-2474, blisshome.com

Home is where the heart is

Create romance in the kitchen and at the table with these Valentine's Day gifts for your sweetheart

BY MARNI ELYSE KATZ | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



Soapstone heart, \$5.95 at Paper Source, 1361 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-264-2800, papersource.com



Crystalline twist heart bowl, \$65 at Simon Pearce, The Street Chestnut Hill, Chestnut Hill, 617-862-2352, simonpearce.com

Heart Felt coasters, \$24/set of four at West Elm, 160 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-450-9500, westelm.com



Valentine's dish towels, \$14.95/pair at Crate & Barrel, 777 Boylston St., Boston, 617-262-8700, crateandbarrel.com



Heart votive by Orrefors, \$20 at Didrik's, 77 Leonard St., Belmont, 617-993-3188, didriks.com



Valentine's day mugs, \$28.76/set of four at williams-sonoma.com

HOT TICKET



DON RIDDLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Don't forget to warm up by the fireplace at the Avery Bar at the Ritz-Carlton.

A delicious date for Valentine's Day

Has your love life grown dull? Predictable? Maybe it's time to spice things up with a five-act interactive date involving fire and oyster-shucking.

Visit the Ritz-Carlton, Boston's Avery Bar (10 Avery St.) on Valentine's Day and start with a blindfold. You'll be masked and asked to taste-test an assortment of canapés, paired with Veuve Clicquot. Then Avery Bar's mixologist, Fraliza Gianniodis, will reveal how to make two specialty champagne cocktails — the Hopeless Romantic, served with dry ice, and the Love Letter, a concoction involving lemon juice and pop rocks.

No need for small talk: You'll then move along to an oyster-shucking class and divvy into teams to prepare filet mignon and dessert, including a fiery red berry flambé (restrict the champagne before attempting).

The class begins at 7 p.m. and costs \$250 per couple — more expensive than Netflix and takeout, but not bad considering you'll get unlimited champagne and food, plus aprons to take home and stories to tell your grandchildren. Reserve at 617-574-7177.

KARA BASKIN

OBSESSION

Mirror, mirror

Mirror, mirror on the wall, which design is fairest of them all? Rhode Island School of Design graduate school sweethearts Ben and Aja Blanc have reimagined reflective glass with color, shape, and supplementary materials. Their newest designs, on display at Salon in Beacon Hill, include mirrors marbled with smoky finishes, along with black, silver, and rose-gold tones; some are trimmed with hand-painted silk fibers or Mongolian horsehair. The pieces, which are equal parts artworks and functional objets, manage to exude both playfulness and restraint. "New Work by Ben & Aja Blanc," through Jan. 27 at Salon, 126 Charles St., Boston, salondesign.us

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