

OBAMA'S MENTOR ON HIS SUPER TUESDAY /// WHAT A BLACK PRESIDENT MEANS TO

THE
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Does *Money*
Make or Break
a Marriage?

Where to Dine
Before Popping
the Question

10 Ways to Trim Your
Budget for the Big Day

Closing the
Intimacy Gap

Knockout Dresses
for Brides and,
Yes, Bridesmaids



The Lovers' Go-to Guide

Eateries, outings, and adventures for amorous couples (and their friends). BY MARNI ELYSE KATZ

5 Romantic Restaurants

These are perfect for proposals – or your first (or 50th) anniversary.

TANGIERINO

Live out your fantasy of Arabian kings and Persian princesses at this sexy Moroccan restaurant in which you can lounge in private Sultan Tents feasting on couscous and lamb, but not before the staff washes your hands in rose-scented water. When you feel sated, move to the palace-garden-themed champagne bar for belly dancers and hookahs. 83 Main Street, Charlestown, 617-242-6009, tangierino.com

SALTS RESTAURANT

Share roasted duck for two carved tableside in a cozy corner of a dining room that feels more like a friend's home than an epicurean outpost. The crisp white tablecloths, Windsor chairs, and oversize floral centerpiece complement the fresh French-inspired dishes. 798 Main Street, Cambridge, 617-876-8444, saltsrestaurant.com

SAPORITO'S

FLORENCE CLUB CAFE

Here, shabby chic goes to the beach for casual Italian cuisine. The white wooden booths, bead-board walls, and floral fabrics are a refreshing change, and it's just a block's walk to the water. 11 Rockland Circle, Hull, 781-925-3023, saporitoscafe.com

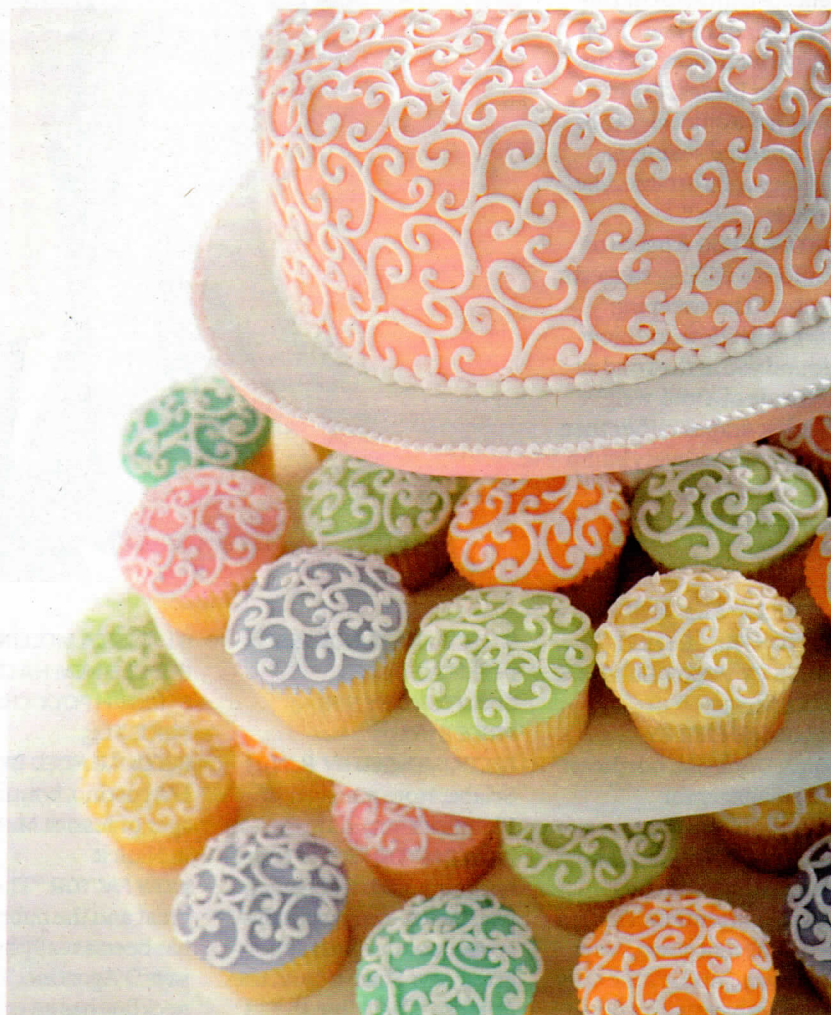
ROSS' GRILL

Board the ferry from Boston's Long Wharf and in less than two hours you can enjoy a glass of wine and a spectacu-

lar sunset on the intimate terrace overlooking Provincetown Harbor. Move inside to a table by the window for a dinner that starts with local oysters and risotto with white truffle oil, followed by rack of lamb or fresh tuna seared to perfection with a sampling of sauces. 237 Commercial Street, Provincetown, 508-487-8878, rossgrillptown.com

NEWBURYPORT REAR RANGE LIGHT

Climb 55 stairs (and a ladder) to dine *a deux* at the top of the Newburyport Lighthouse. While you wait for your dinner (provided by one of five local restaurants), circle the catwalk for a 360-degree view of the Merrimack River Valley, Plum Island, and the charming community below. *The Lighthouse Preservation Society*, 800-727-2326, lighthousepreservation.org; requires a \$350 tax-deductible gift to the society, plus the cost of your meal



5 Final Flings

Have your last hurrah – with just the guys, just the ladies, or both – with these memorable outings. (They also make great birthday party events.)

FLOWER ARRANGING AND CUPCAKE DECORATING CLASS

It's sugar and spice and everything nice when your girls get together. OK, not so much, but it could be. Hire floral designers Apryl Sahadi and Julie Crites from Petalena Flowers to teach you how to arrange blossoms and blooms. Also, invite Emily Bao from Sweet to instruct you on the art of cupcake decorating. Add a few pink drinks, and creativity will take over. *Petalena Flowers*, 617-216-9128, petalena.com; lessons (materials included) start at \$40 per person, with a \$500 minimum. *Sweet*, 617-247-2253, sweetcupcakes.com; a two-hour lesson costs \$200, plus \$75 per person (includes a dozen cupcakes per person)