

# THE HEART OF ROMANCE

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PURVEYOR  
OF SWEET  
NOTHINGS

BY BETH SCHWARTZ  
PHOTO BY JIM K. DECKER



*What is your idea of romance?*

Paying attention. My parents are still married and I watched my dad and he showed me what it was all about.

*How do you create romance in terms of people that dine at the Medici Café?*

It's by doing special things. Just the other night a couple with an anniversary wanted a pineapple upside-down cake. We take a request like that up a notch, so we added chocolate hearts then put their names on the cake. In the food genre, dessert is the only one you get to personalize because we do get to write on the cake, they don't get to do that with the mashed potatoes.

*What do you think works best in trying to woo a woman in general?*

Sincerity. I would rather be sincere with the little things. For instance, I noticed my wife's phone charger was broken a few days ago. On my way home from work last night, I stopped and picked one up for her.

*What activities would you plan to create a romantic day or evening?*

To me romance is spontaneity. I like to surprise her with a picnic lunch at Red Rock or Lake Las Vegas and I make everything.

*How did you and your wife meet?*

A friend came to visit me here and wanted to go to Tabu nightclub after reading about it on the plane. So me and my buddy were at the club and after one-and-a-half hours of this girl relentlessly staring at me, I finally went over and started talking to her. I had always declared I would never meet anyone "good" at a bar. Obviously I was proven wrong. I ended up leaving my buddy behind hanging out with some couple from Idaho or somewhere.

*How did you propose?*

I planned this whole day for her. I started out by taking her blindfolded to Tabu which was closed. At the time, she was thinking this was all for her birthday because I have a trifecta, we became engaged on February 12, her birthday is February 13 and then, of course, there's Valentine's Day. I had wrapped all of these boxes within one another and each one had a tag with a line of the scripture from when I first told her that I loved her. There was also a handkerchief in one of the boxes, which was for me to kneel on when I proposed to her; and we still have it. After I asked her to marry me, we went to Sensi at the Bellagio where all of our family members were waiting and we celebrated with an engagement cake I designed in the shape of a blue Tiffany box.

*What are some romantic gestures you have performed over the years?*

I wear a stunt wedding ring to work so I don't get the real one messed up. I wear my actual wedding ring on a necklace so it's close to my heart.

*Are you a big Valentine's Day guy or are you big on romance throughout the entire year?*

For me it's all year long. I don't think you have to go on a big two-week trip to be romantic. You can realize romance when you understand it's not about you but them. I may not want to go to the spa but I know she does and I will go along because it works both ways; I know she does stuff with me that she doesn't enjoy doing.