

The Ten Best Romantic gifts

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HALL

VINTAGE TIMEPIECE

For a truly timeless present, why not purchase a vintage Rolex Oyster for your partner from the year of their birth, or perhaps from the date of your wedding. They are built with Swiss precision in the finest metals. There is a style and shape to suit all, and their collectibility ensures that they become more valuable as time goes by. Each watch is packaged in a stylish case with a ticket commemorating its year of production.



www.vintagewatchcompany.com
020-7499 2032; from £1,900

A ROMANTIC FILM JUST FOR TWO

If your first date was in the back row of the local flicks, re-create it with aplomb by hiring an entire cinema, exclusively for you and your partner, showing your favourite slushy movie, whether it's *Gone With The Wind* or *Sleepless in Seattle*. *The Everyman cinema in Hampstead, London, offers screenings for two for £550 on Sunday mornings, champagne included. Other cinemas offer similar packages.*



www.everymancinema.com;
020-3145 0500

WORDS OF LOVE

Having a bespoke book bound is a very intimate way to express your affection. Whether you pen your own rhymes or want to have one of your loved one's favourite books bound, this is a lasting and unique expression of your love. Choose from over 2,000 styles of paper, cover it with one of 48 colours of goat, calfskin or leather binding, then choose the lettering on the cover. The process takes three weeks.



www.bookbinding.co.uk
020-7620 0060; from £1,200

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ndport.co.uk;

020-7494 3372



DRIVE IN STYLE

Pack a picnic in a wicker hamper, don your silk scarf and head off for an unforgettable day in a chauffeur-driven vintage or classic car. Make the trip memorable by visiting a favourite beauty spot or a stately home. There are many hire companies around the UK that specialise in vintage and classic cars. Some double as wedding cars, too... *For hire companies in your area, visit www.freeindex.co.uk*

UP, UP AND AWAY

According to company owner Jo Bailey, balloons bring out the romantic in people. Not only did her husband propose to her in one, but they reckon they have 10 proposals per year in their fleet of gorgeous, brightly coloured balloons. Once in the air, your balloon travels up to several thousand feet, allowing you to gaze upon villages, towns and countryside. Every balloon flight is rounded off with a champagne toast and a commemorative certificate.



www.balloonsoverbritain.co.uk
01404 822489; around £500

FRAGRANT MEMORIES

A beautiful fragrance is always welcome. Personalise it by having a fragrance created just for your loved one. This gift offers a consultation with a perfume expert who will help you create a unique fragrance from a choice of 18 blends, including feminine, masculine and unisex scents. You will take home a gift boxed 20ml atomiser of your perfume, a certificate with your chosen name - and the formula, so that it can be re-created.



www.virginexperiencedays.co.uk;
0845 330 5115



ok. Capture the glamour with
ondon Victoria to the beauti-
ch is served onboard, then
e city followed by a four
return journey.
com; 0845 077 2222; prices

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

The perfect gift for a foodie favourite who wants to nurture their love of food and get the skills to create beautiful, imaginative cuisine. At Le Manoir au Quat' Saisons, Raymond Blanc's beautiful restaurant and hotel in Oxfordshire, you can choose from one-, two- or four-day courses, and be given tips on the selection and preparation of a wide range of foods. Some day courses - such as "Learn to Cook in One Day" - are taught personally by Blanc.



www.manoir.com; 01844 278881; from £295

WEEKEND BREAK

Immortalised by Bridget Jones, the "mini-break" has become the epitome of the romantic weekend. To avoid the sleazy image of seaside bed and breakfasts, where better to take your loved one than a stunning lakeside lodge in the Cotswolds? The Watermark is a set of lodges around the 140 lakes that make up the Cotswold Water Park, which has facilities to cater for most tastes.

www.watermarkclub.co.uk; 01285 869181; from £365 for a short break

