



FLARE Toronto Alert

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Change of Heart

We don't usually get all mushy but if February's lovey-dovey spirit lets us spend more time with our sweetie, we can open our hearts to these Valentine finds.

—Andrew Sardone

CLOTHING CRUSH

With a designer resume that includes stints at Chloé and Pink Tartan, it's no surprise that Toronto's **Marika Brose** has a love affair with tailored, feminine dresses. Her debut Spring 2009 collection is a mix of cocktail looks and party frocks detailed with flirty feathers, sequins and crystals. Luckily for Valentine's Day dress shoppers, date-perfect pieces priced between \$395 and \$825 have just arrived at Finishing Touches and Jacflash.



SWEET HEARTS

A trip to Venice would be such a lovely Valentine's Day gift but if you must pinch pennies, a nice chunk of Venetian glass will do. Glass Treasures jewellery, available at new online gift spot WhereDidYouGetThat.ca, is the line we heart most, featuring valentine pendants covered in 14K gold leaf hung from plush lengths of velvet ribbon or leather cord. We promise the \$175 to \$195 price tag won't send your bank account aflutter.



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RECIPE FOR LOVE

If watching other couples canoodle over a plate of cannelloni makes you loose your appetite, cook up a V-day feast at home with the help of **La Bruschetta's** lineup of culinary classes. The Corso Italia restaurant, where celebs like Rachel McAdams, the Olsen twins and Sophia Loren fall for Umbrian cuisine, is now schooling students on authentic antipasto, primi and secondi. Classes start at \$75 per person including a sit-down tasting. 1317 St. Clair Avenue West, 416-656-8622.



DESIGN DATE

Want to nab the designer of your dreams? On February 5, scout eligible interior designers, architects and home makeover TV show hosts at the **Interior Design Show's** opening night party at the Direct Energy Centre. You can also take in talks by international design heartthrobs like Christophe Delcourt and Ben Van Berkel. No luck on Thursday? Return Saturday or Sunday when IDS fills up with decorators and designer creations from Missoni Home (pictured). Door tickets are \$55 for opening night and \$20 on the weekend, interiordesignshow.com.



LUSTY LOCKS

Let's review our Valentine's date checklist. Flirty frock? Check. Statement bauble? Check. Hot hors d'oeuvres and sleek designer date? Check and check. Come hither hair? Oh, bless our hearts, we knew we forgot something. Never fear because Hair on the Avenue's blow-dry bar **Blown** just opened to fix this sort of follicle forgetfulness. Pin straight-to-Bardot blowouts are just \$29 and take less than 30 minutes so you'll be fashionably punctual for dinner. 112 Avenue Road, 416-922-0112, hairontheavenue.ca.



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