



## Cascadia Weekly

### Heart to Heart

#### A Valentine's Day primer

By Amy Kepferle · Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Where Valentine's Day is concerned, planning is everything. In an effort to help the populace at large attain maximum satisfaction on the day where love supposedly conquers all, the folks at Sustainable Connections have compiled a list of eateries that are doing more than lighting a few candles and calling it good. If you've already got date night taken care of, please disregard the following suggestions. If not, make reservations where applicable and prepare to be thanked in ways not printable in this paper.

**Ciao Thyme** has a not-so-secret secret. While the popular caterers publicize their monthly Incognito dinners—which feature locally sourced food as much as is humanly possible—at their downtown kitchen, diners never know exactly what they'll get when they sit down at the table. Although the menu is kept under wraps, I speak from experience when I say the multi-course surprises are part of the fun. Valentine's Day will feature two Incognito offerings, mucho ambience, and a chance to see a romantic feast prepared before your eyes by executive chef Mataio Gillis and crew. If you find out the dinners are filled up—which they may well be by the time you read this—you still have until Feb. 8 to order one-of-a-kind dark chocolate truffles (\$10 for a box of four or \$18 for eight). *WHEN: 5pm and 8:30pm Sun., Feb. 14. WHERE: In the Kitchen, 207 Unity St. COST: \$75 per person. INFO: 927-4890 or <http://www.opentable.com>*

Even without Valentine's Day lurking around the corner, **The Temple Bar** is effortlessly sexy. Velvety red wallpaper, high ceilings, glittering chandeliers and always-lit candles—not to mention a gargantuan selection of fine wines and fancy cocktails—make it the perfect place for a first, or 100th, date. Getting in on the heart-to-heart spirit, the venue is holding its first-ever open house Valentine's Day Wine & Cheese Tasting. You won't have to be part of a couple to partake, and reservations are not necessary. Simply show up, snag a seat and share a nibble or two with those who are doing the same. *WHEN: 4:30-6pm Sun., Feb. 14. WHERE: The Temple Bar, 306 W. Champion St. COST: \$10 per person. INFO: 676-8660 or <http://www.templebarbellingham.com>*

Getting high is easy when you're talking about a trip to **Nimbus Restaurant**. Named after the rain clouds prevalent in our corner of the globe, the 15th-floor restaurant perched atop the Bellingham Towers is known for providing both jaw-dropping views

served alongside inspiring seasonal cuisine. While the three-course Valentine's menu they're offering during dinner hours Feb. 13-14 is sure to inspire your palate, don't be afraid to order a few extra local oysters on the half-shell to ensure post-repast success (wink, wink). Oh, and reservations are a necessity, so act fast. *WHEN: Feb. 13-14. WHERE: Nimbus, 119 N. Commercial St. COST: \$40 per person. INFO: 676-1307 or <http://www.nimbusrestaurant.com>*

You don't have to be a newlywed to make a date for **Honey Moon's** seven-course tasting dinner, but if you are, tear yourself away from marital bliss long enough to partake in the meal. Prepared by Brandywine Kitchen—whose motto is “from seed to plate”—the expansive bill of fare will include taste sensations from local food purveyors such as Breadfarm, Bellingham Pasta Co., Lone Boot Bison, Taylor Shellfish Farm, DeVine Gardens, Pure Bliss Desserts, and more. Since you'll be in an establishment whose libations showcase the best the Northwest has to offer, expect each course to be paired with handcrafted mead, wine or cider. *WHEN: 6pm Sun., Feb. 14. WHERE: Honey Moon, 1053 N. State St. COST: \$50 per person. INFO: 734-0728*

Table for two? Sure thing, sir (or madam). **Boundary Bay Brewery and Bistro** has big plans for the big day—including a unique, decadent menu—and promises to have lots of tables available for couples to canoodle by candlelight. In addition to the fancier fare, expect music from the Mt. Baker Toppers and lighting sure to make you look even more attractive than you already are. *WHEN: Sun., Feb. 14. WHERE: Boundary Bay, 1107 Railroad Ave. COST: Varies. INFO: 647-5593 or <http://www.bbaybrewery.com>*