reign
COLORADO
the LOVE ISSUE
Denver's
POWER COUPLES
Colorado's
BEST DATE NIGHTS
Escape
TO PALM BEACH
&
DREAMY
VALENTINE'S
GIFTS

By **Rebecca Treon**

Whether you have been married for decades or are in the throes of falling in love, the art of the date night is exactly that - an art. From romantic escapes to that first meeting, our itineraries are a far cry from the requisite dinner and a movie. Here, *Reign's* picks for epic adventures with your loved one at every end of the spectrum.

01 // The First Date

Depart from the trappings of the typical first date by doing things your own way. There won't be any awkward moments staring across a dinner table when you get crafty together at **Upstairs Circus**. You'll meet up for an afternoon project-making session, sip on a signature cocktail (His: Vintage Circus, Hers: Pink Elephant) and create something beautiful together. He might stamp out a pair of custom leather travel tags or a monogrammed leather hip flask, she might design a custom collar for her pup or a hex nut bracelet. Next, hit **Sarto's** restaurant, Jefferson Park's shining star. Reserve a seat at the bar, where glimpses of the hustle and bustle of the open kitchen give you plenty to talk about. Chat with the chef about the types of food you want to sample, and he'll construct a custom selection of up to eight courses of Cicchitti—typical small bites served in Venice—paired with something from their (mostly) Italian wine list. Since things are going swimmingly, get a nightcap of sorts when you visit **Laws Whiskey House**. Tour the distillery and top off the night with a few samples of their A.D. Laws Four Grain Bourbon Whiskey. This could be the beginning of something beautiful...

OUR ADVICE

"Don't just go for dinner or coffee because it's what people do. Those venues can be difficult because it forces constant conversation. Instead, do something you'll actually enjoy that helps the date go smoothly."

- Beth Hooper, Matchmaker

Black Book

Upstairs Circus: *720.722.2105 // upstairscircus.com*
Sarto's: *303.455.1400 // sartos.com*
Laws Whiskey House: *720.570.1420 // lawswhiskeyhouse.com*

02 // The Foodie Date

Food and love are inextricably linked: Playwright George Bernard Shaw famously said "There is no sincerer love than the love of food." Food lovers date like no one else—they'll skip the sporting events and the movies to go to a hot new restaurant, a wine tasting or a five-course progressive dinner. Your ultimate date would look like this. Start the evening on the **Taste of LoDo** tour with **Local Table Tours**, a food-tasting tour company started by Colorado food blogger Meghan Bucholz. Your tour stops, crawl-style, at various well-known restaurants throughout the area, including favorites like **Mercantile** in Union Station and **The Squeaky Bean**. The selection of restaurants changes for each tour, so the restaurants are a surprise. Next, head down Market Street to **Cook Street School** and take their Culinary Date Night class, designed especially for couples that want to turn up the heat. You'll prepare seasonally-geared menus, accompanied by complimentary wines. Finally, stroll down **Larimer Square** (enjoy the window shopping on this historic Denver block) and stop at **Cru** for a nightcap. Their wine flights give you the opportunity to taste a flight of different styles—we think Everyone Loves Bubbles or Sexy Reds might set the right tone for the rest of the evening.

OUR ADVICE

"Try to avoid doing too much 'research' on someone and try to get to know them little by little. Half the fun of going out is getting to know someone new, so allow that to happen naturally."

Black Book

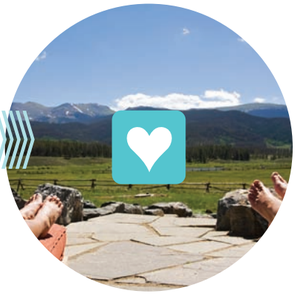
Local Table Tours: 3*03.909.5747 // localtabletours.com*
Mercantile: *720.460.3733 // mercantiledenver.com*
The Squeaky Bean: *303.623.2665 // thesqueakybean.net*
Cook Street School: *303.308.9300 // cookstreet.com*
Larimer Square: *303.534.2367 // larimersquare.com*
Cru: *303.893.9463 // cruwinebar.com*

03 // Rekindling the Romance

Sometimes it feels like the spark has dwindled to an ember, and you need to fan the flames to breathe new life into your old love. There's nothing like a weekend retreat to the ultra-romantic **Devil's Thumb Ranch**, where you can stay in the secluded Willow Cabin. Its romantic Scandinavian décor sets the tone for the weekend—beautiful meadow views, a warm fire, a claw-footed tub and a sleeping loft take you away from it all. After brunch at **Heck's Tavern** in the stunning hexagonal dining space, head to your couples massage, where a dual rubdown will refresh you for a weekend together. **Devil's Thumb** is all about rustic romance, and after a horseback ride or an afternoon ice-skating, soak away your troubles in the resort's geothermic pool. Cozy up to a romantic steak dinner for two at **John L's Wine Cellar** (a super-intimate dining experience) or the **Ranch House** (they're known for the Wagyu beef from their own herd) and spend the evening reconnecting. The next day, explore the ranch on a scenic stroll, then hit nearby **Winter Park** for a few hours of shopping in their charming boutiques and galleries. Be sure to hit up **Vasquez Creek Inn** and stop into **Volario's** for Northern Italian cuisine that will warm your heart. When you head home, hand in hand, the passion will be back.

Black Book

Devil's Thumb Ranch: *970.726.5632 // devilsthumbranch.com*
Vasquez Creek Inn: *970.722.1188 // vasquezcreekinn.com*



OUR ADVICE

"Regardless of how chaotic life gets, take five minutes to cuddle and kiss in the morning and at night. This kind of affection can do wonders for romance and intimacy."

04 // The Epic Anniversary

OUR ADVICE

"The 75th date is just as important as the first. Never, ever stop dating your spouse. Take the time to plan evenings out and never take one another for granted."

Black Book

The Broadmoor: *800.755.5011 // broadmoor.com*
Penrose Room: *719.577.5773 // broadmoor.com/penroseroom*
Broadmoor Jewelry Company: *719.577.5760 // broadmoorjewelryco.com*

The Penrose Room at the **Broadmoor Hotel** hearkens back to a time when gents wore dinner jackets and bejeweled ladies in elegant dresses went up to dinner to mark a special occasion. This hasn't changed much since the ubiquitous Broadmoor restaurant first opened its doors in 1961—and in fact, **The Penrose Room** is the only place in Colorado that's been awarded five stars and five diamonds for more than 50 years running. Your anniversary weekend can begin with champagne on ice delivered to your room—a celebration of everything you've been and what's to come. Then, after spending the day relaxing poolside and treating yourselves to a couples' massage, you'll get dressed to the nines to enjoy a bespoke dinner under the oversized crystal chandelier at the Penrose Room. Atop the South tower, overlooking the grand resort, you'll dine on seasonal Continental cuisine, sip perfectly paired wines hand-selected by the sommelier, and be attended with white glove service, paving the way to an evening of dancing (accompanied by a mellow jazz trio)—the perfect way to celebrate an anniversary weekend. Before you leave the Penrose, surprise her by blindfolding her and leading her to the **Broadmoor Jewelry Company**. It's after-hours—the lights are off when you arrive, but you've made special arrangements for a spectacular surprise. She has no idea what to expect as you're ushered in, and when the lights go up, there's bubbly on ice, and on the counter a selection of hand-picked diamond necklaces so she can pick her favorite. The next day, enjoy a round of golf on the resort's award-winning green, or take a sleigh ride through the mountains to end the perfect anniversary weekend.

05 // The Adventurous Date

He had to get to know you, so he asked you on a date. Not an ordinary date, but one that was unforgettable—he took you up in his de Havilland, and you've never looked back. Soaring above the clouds, you sensed this was the beginning of a grand adventure. Now, you experience it all together, and you're as hooked on each other as you are in pursuing a thrill. Your next ultimate date? Heli-skiing for two, followed by an unforgettably romantic dinner. From Vail, you'll jet to Telluride with **Helitrax** on a private fixed-wing charter that gets you there in 40 minutes of scenic flying. Once in Telluride, you'll board a helicopter for a full day of heli-skiing on 200 square miles in the San Juans. Your return flight gets you back to Vail in time for dinner. Atop the slopes of Beaver Creek lies a luxurious chalet nestled in the White River National Forest in a meadow that was once part of a pioneer settlement—**Beano's Cabin**. Only accessible by an open-air sleigh pulled by a Snow-CAT, you'll arrive and warm up next to a blazing fire in the stone fireplace. Under antler chandeliers, you'll enjoy a 5-course dinner of Colorado's flavors, including game grilled over an open fire.

OUR ADVICE

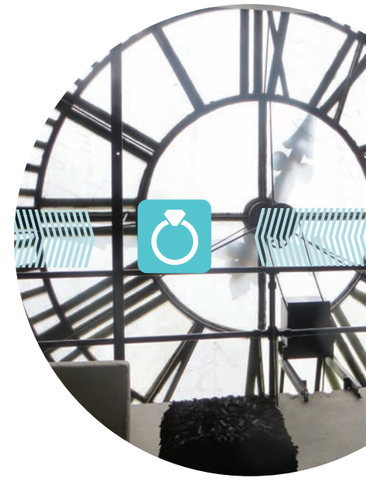
"It's healthy to get out of your comfort zone as a couple. Pushing your boundaries allows you to get to know another side of one another. Whether it's traveling abroad or running a marathon, changing up the scenario is key."

Black Book

Telluride Helitrax: *970.728.8377 // helitrax.com*

Beano's Cabin: *970.754.3463 // beanoscabinbeavercreek.com*

06 // The Perfect Proposal



Surprise your fiancée-to-be with a treasure hunt that ends in a proposal. A hand-written note at home will lead her on a tour of your favorite spots around town, taking her first steps on a journey that will last a lifetime. As she walks out of her front door, a driver awaits in a vintage **Rolls Royce**, ready to squire her around town as she follows the clues. Inside the car? A bottle of Dom and a playlist of the tunes you've fallen in love to.

The driver ferries her to **Aviano**, the Cherry Creek coffee shop where you had your first date. Her bestie is there, with an envelope containing the next clue, and the Rolls whisks her away to Civic Center Park—where you met for your lunch breaks and sampled Denver's best food trucks. A lone food cart is there—**Peteybird Ice Cream**—and the next clue comes with a sweet ice cream sandwich. **The Cruise Room** is the next spot, where you drank your first martini together, bathed in rosy light and swathed in Art Deco splendor. The bartender shakes up a cocktail and slips her the next clue: A room at the **Crawford**, where a stunning little black dress is draped on the bed with instructions to meet at your final destination. Only you know that after she accepts, you're headed to dinner at **Fruition**, where your friends and family are waiting to celebrate.

You'll end at one of Denver's notable landmarks: **The Daniels and Fisher Clock Tower**, where she'll climb the spiral staircase to find you at the top, behind the face of the clock. When you get down on one knee with that little blue box, this room--with clocks on all sides--is the perfect place to propose to the one you want to go through time with.

Black Book

Excursions Rolls Royce Rental

303.832.0820 // rollsroycerentalsdenver.com

The Cruise Room

303.825.1007 // theoxfordhotel.com

The Crawford Hotel

720.460.3700 // thecrawfordhotel.com

May D&F Clock Tower

303.877.0742 // clocktowerevents.com

Fruition

303.831.1962 // fruitionrestaurant.com

OUR ADVICE

"Give yourselves a few days to bask in the glow of just being engaged and madly in love. Don't start talking wedding logistics for at least three days. Then, call a planner!"

-CC Dick & Paige Reberry, Colorado Wedding Company

"Make sure to make time for each other and ensure that not every conversation is about wedding planning so that you don't become overwhelmed."

-Jessica Adler, JA Special Events