

VALENTINE BLISS

By Bonnie Carroll

A Valentine can be a little red heart drawn on a wrinkled piece of paper that is presented by a six-year-old, with all their love, to the mom they adore, or it can be breakfast in bed from the man who idolizes you, or in some circles it can be an exquisite and outrageous gift from anyone who deems you the object of their heart's desire.

Glamorous gifts abound in Beverly Hills, and Valentine's Day gift buyers flock to this destination to find a gift that will please. The selection of extravagant surprises is endless, but included in this story are gift ideas for the decadent, devoted, and devil-may-care gift givers. Rodeo Drive, dubbed "the street of dreams" by some, houses the ultimate in sublime gift giving venues where Tiffany, Gucci, Chanel, Fendi, Lalique, Geary's, Brooks Brothers, Bvlgari, Cartier, Burberry and so many more provide memorable gifts to please the most selective Valentine.

Buccellati, located in the Regent Beverly Wilshire, with elegant salons throughout the world, will soon be moving to a new salon at 2 Rodeo Drive. The world-class shoppers in town will also be delighted to know that they will also be opening on the Ponte Vecchio in Florence next year. Buccellati craftsmanship offers the ultimate in exquisite one-of-a-kind jewelry gifts. For the woman who loves delicate and elegantly designed bracelets, Buccellati has the perfect Valentine surprise in a gold and diamond rose-petal bracelet that glistens and is graceful beyond words. This piece of magnificent wearable art is \$320,000. Their collection also includes handsome designer gifts for the man in your life.

Photo: The ultimate Valentine surprise, a gold and diamond bracelet by Buccellati

Women from nine to ninety love their designer purses, and will be thrilled with any item from the new collection at Ferragamo, Dior, or Hermes. Louis Vuitton has some hot-looking sport shoes and workout bags for men that would appeal to a daddy or devoted husband, and Bvlgari has

a pair of heart-shaped ruby earrings, with diamonds that would stun and delight any deserving girl.

Photo: All that is beautiful at Ferragamo

Lladro ceramics from Spain are among the most coveted creations in the world, and "The Lovers," a three-dimensional depiction of the Viennese painter Klimt's famous masterpiece of the same name, brought sighs of delight from guests during its unveiling ceremony in Beverly Hills. This \$4,600 gift would be the ultimate Valentine for a beloved soulmate. Svend Ingerslev, GM for Lladro on Rodeo, says, "We also have a beautiful collection of Talesmania accessories for women, made of porcelain, silver and gold." The mandelas and crosses, which are considered good-luck pieces, are the fashion rage and range in price from \$150 to \$600.

Photo: Lladro "The Lovers"

Chocolate is always a turn-on, and Diane Kron's K Chocolates, located at 9606 Little Santa Monica Boulevard, thought of by some to be the Rolls Royce of candy, has taken it to another level by creating K Sensual Chocolates, made of Chinese aphrodisiac herbs that are purported to intensify a woman's sexual pleasure. The chocolates are presented in a beautiful Garden of Roses gift box, and according to Kron, "We have so many phone orders every Valentine's Day that we can hardly fill them." For information see DianeKronChocolates.com

Photo: K Sensual Chocolate Gift Box is sure to make her smile.

Every woman secretly dreams of waking up one morning and finding a beautiful car at her front door, and according to Vinnie Mandzak, VP of marketing for Mercedes Benz of Beverly Hills, the agency has received many unusual requests for special occasions over the years, but this month he had a very touching Valentine request for a custom Mercedes station wagon from a first-time father-to-be. It was ordered



for the enjoyment and safety of his wife and expected baby boy, and was scheduled to be draped with a big red bow and delivered for Valentine's Day.

Special pampering for spa babies is also a welcome gift on Valentines Day. Both the Regent Beverly Wilshire and Beverly Hills Hotels offer spa packages for couples or singles. The "Pretty Woman" spa treatment at the Regent Beverly Wilshire is ideal for that favorite lady who shops until she drops on Rodeo Drive, and La Prairie Spa in the Beverly Hills Hotel has a romantic and inviting massage treatment for couples wishing to enjoy their special evening at this historic hotel. The executive chefs at both hotels have planned something wonderful for their sweetheart guests. Happy Valentine's Day!

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