

# Debt Free Shopper

*Valentine's Edition*

# Valentine's



## Be unique this Valentine's Day... and let us help!

Valentine's Day can be such a fun holiday if you don't let all the pink, red, and hearts scare you. One of the best things about Valentine's Day is you can be creative and show a different side of yourself to your loved ones.

Sometimes creativity is a scary thing in and of itself! That's why we are here to help you make this Valentine's Day unique and special.

We have packed this Valentine's Day Issue of the Debt Free Shopper full of unique Valentine's Day gift

ideas that won't put you into debt. We've got great suggestions that are all in a reasonable budget and all allow you to buy online and pay with cash!

We love getting feedback from our readers, if you have ideas or suggestions please email us at [info@eBillme.com](mailto:info@eBillme.com).

We also want to invite you to enter [eBillme's Free Contest Giveaway](#) every Wednesday and Thursday. Be sure to check it out because you could be our next big

winner! (Contest open to US and CDN residents.)

### In this Issue:

V-Day gift ideas for kids

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and more!



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# Love



## Say I Love You with a thoughtful gift for your child

### Valentine's Gifts for Kids

*by Lesley Purtell*

Say I Love You this Valentine's Day with a thoughtful gift for your child.

**Homemade Card:** Kids love crafts, so make a heart-shaped personalized card for your child.

**No Candy:** Skip the candy for Valentine's Day, many kids still have chocolate left over from Christmas, and the Easter Bunny is just around the corner!

**No Drugstores:** Take the time to find something unique and memorable for your child. Find a gift that

celebrates their favorite hobbies, or choose a family gift that all of you will love.

**Shop Online** to find unique [Valentine's Day gift ideas](#).

Also – be sure to send **Valentine's Day cards** to the other children in your life, like cousins, nieces, and nephews. Nothing beats receiving a card in the mail, and extra I Love You's from someone out of town.



## Making V-day special for you & your spouse:

### Ways to celebrate besides dinner and roses

#### 1. Start planning NOW!

Now is the time to start planning a special Valentine's Day celebration for your main squeeze/spouse/partner. If you start early you can guarantee you'll have some special ready on Feb. 14th.

#### 2. Special does NOT mean typical

Remember to be unique in what you choose for your special someone this Valentine's Day.

#### 3. Avoid the cliches

It can be so easy to run to the drug store and grab the usual box of chocolates and flowers for a V-day gift. But don't do it this year! Find something special and unique! If you start planning now, you won't have to run out the day before.

#### 4. Skip the Chocolate

It isn't a requirement to eat or give chocolate on Valentine's. The #1 New Year's Resolution is to lose weight! Don't sabotage you (or your Valentine's) hard work with ho-hum Valentine chocolates.



## Most popular Valentine's Day gift ideas

by Dave Lindsay

This year, whoever you're shopping for they're sure to appreciate a little extra thought put into a present that screams "Happy Valentines Day"! Giant hearts and cupids are all the rage, so this year: think pink!

Sure, fondue was a fad in the 70s—but for good reason! Think about it: melted chocolate and fresh fruit? It's a no brainer. This [fondue pot](#) makes a perfect gift that suggests a romantic night in...and how about some [heart shaped waffles](#) for breakfast.

How about some heart décor? A nice [Valentine themed wall hanging](#) for the recreation room, or this [Valentines cotton flannel throw](#).

However, there's always something to be said about the classics: their favorite chocolates, a [cute stuffed animal](#) and to cap it all off, a picture of yourself or your family in this [heart frame](#) makes the perfect topper!

There are so many other options for great [gift ideas](#) and to make it easy for you we've broken it down by who you're buying for - [Him](#), [Her](#), [Mom](#), [Girlfriend](#),





## Valentine's Day Parties - not just for School

by Lesley Purtell

Just when the winter blues are starting to set in - Valentine's Day warms things up with red and white and lots of fun!

Valentine's Day is big celebration at Elementary schools. The kids start to decorate the classroom in late January with heart shaped everything, made from white doilies, red crepe paper, and more.

This year, why not bring the celebration home, and host your own Valentine's Day party. You don't need to be Martha Stewart, and you don't have to spend a lot of money – just do some Valentine's decorating and plan a few surprises.

Here are a few websites with Valentine's crafts: including printable cards, easy crafts, and more.

[Crayola](#)  
[DLTK's](#)  
[All Free Crafts](#)

Plan a special Valentine's dinner for your family, or if you want to make the party bigger, invite the Grandparents, or a few friends. Include the kids in the party planning, or surprise them.

Here are a few ideas:

- Make dinner invitations
- Suggest a Dress Code: maybe fancy; or wear red, wear PJ's, etc.
- Set the "table": consider having dinner somewhere other than the kitchen table, maybe picnic style in the living room, or in a tent in the basement.

Plan a Dinner Menu:

- Favorite Foods: have a dinner which consists of everyone's favorite, maybe it's Mac & Cheese, or Tacos', just choose something everyone loves
  - Festive Dessert: make cupcakes (or buy them, Publix has the BEST Valentine's cupcakes)
- After dinner, play a board game or musical chairs (no TV, no computer)

With a little effort and a few ideas, you'll have a memorable celebration which won't cost much money. Have fun planning a special Valentine's Day for your family.



## Rack of Lamb - V-day Recipe:

by Dave Lindsay

Excited to make a special Valentine's Day meal but don't know where to begin? Lamb is easy to cook, and just exotic enough to make a nice change from your everyday cooking: rack of lamb really leaves an impression!

This recipe serves 2-4 people.

### Ingredients:

- 2 racks of lamb
- salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Sauce
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion or shallot
- 1 cup dry red wine, Pinot Noir is very good
- 1 teaspoon minced rosemary leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon minced thyme leaves
- 1 teaspoon chopped chives
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1 to 2 tablespoons butter
- salt and pepper, to taste

### Preparation:

Heat oven to 400°.

Sprinkle lamb with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Place racks of lamb in skillet, meaty side down, until nicely seared. Turn to brown bottoms, letting the racks support each other. Transfer to a foil-lined roasting pan. Place pan in oven; roast for about 20 to 30 minutes.

In the same skillet, sauté onions until tender. Add wine and herbs; simmer briskly until the wine has boiled down to a syrup. Add broth and continue to simmer until reduced to about 3/4 cup. Add the butter; stir. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve sauce with the lamb. Makes 3/4 cup.

Cut lamb into portions and serve with the red wine sauce.





## How to make HIM feel special on Valentine's Day

by Dave Lindsay

Want to plan a special evening for that special guy in your life? Planning a night event for him can be as simple as letting him choose the movie you'll rent, or as complex as a magical evening out on the town complete with 5 star restaurant and helicopter ride. Whether your idea is straightforward or complicated, one thing is sure: if you don't take your audience into account, he's not going to enjoy himself. So here are some suggestions to get you started.

One word: beer. There are plenty of craft-beers made with pride at breweries near you. You can find them online, or at the grocery store. Better yet, take him for a nice dinner at a bar where they serve a lot of independently brewed beers, or better yet for a tour of the brewery itself—with you as designated driver, of course!

[There are always tools](#): you can go with the classics or you can go with something he'd never buy for himself like a [prestige set of headphones](#) or even a [Nintendo Wii Fit](#) especially if he made a "lose weight" New Year's Resolution for 2010.

Giving a [video game](#) or video game system is twice as good when it comes from a wife or girlfriend because it sends the message that it's okay for him to take time to relax, and to play it.

Gadgets: because in his heart of hearts he strives every day to be more like a robot. A new [bluetooth headset](#) might be just the thing, a new camcorder or a [watch/heart monitor](#).

We hope that these gifts point you in the right direction to make Valentine's 2010 a day he'll remember! Good luck, and remember: *think like a boy!*

## Gift Giving Tips

### What NOT to do when giving V-day gifts:

#### Guys, Don't be a cliché

You must be original when planning something special for V-day. The word special itself entitles the recipient to something over the top or out of the ordinary. This means DON'T get a heart shaped box of chocolates and a dozen red roses just because it's Valentine's Day. Every other woman is getting that same thing, she wants to stand out from the crowd. You can keep with tradition and get her chocolates and flowers, but if you do, make sure it's rare chocolate or rare flowers!

#### Don't put pressure on him

Ladies, this is the holiday where your man has the chance to show his creative, romantic, and thoughtful side (assuming he has one). Don't give him a list of things you want for V-day, save that for Christmas! Let him have the freedom to do what he wants. And if he bombs it, you can just make a mental note of it on that list that I know you're keeping in your head.

#### Don't ignore it

No matter how much you hate the "love holiday" celebrate it anyway! Send a card, or gift to a friend to let them know you care about them. Even though we told you not to send flowers, receiving flowers from a friend out of town is a great feeling! Do it!

