

living
NORTHSIDE

THE ART OF COOKING

Cooking Lessons Unveil Your Inner Chef

'RHYTHM IS GONNA GET YOU'

Let Latin Dance be Your Escape

THE ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

They'll Have You at Hello



An insider's guide to living on the northside.
From **The Atlanta Journal Constitution**



For your sweetheart

It's wonderful when your loved one snuggles up beside you and reveals an unexpected gift, or takes you by the hand with your eyes closed into a candlelit setting for a surprise dinner. However, creating those kinds of magical experiences doesn't come so easily for everyone.

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Start with morning breakfast

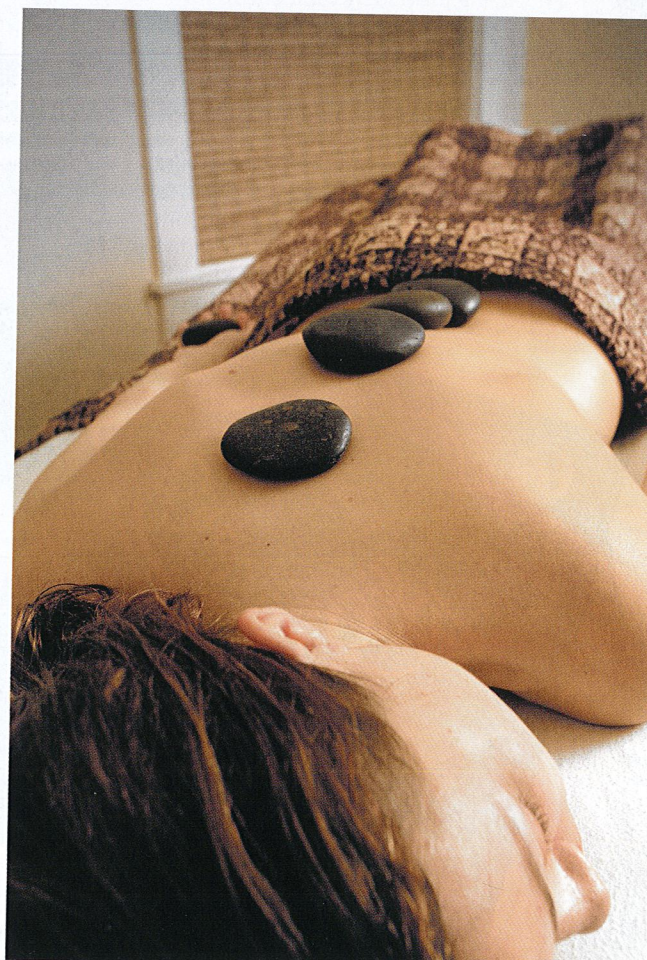
A yellow craftsman-style bungalow is home to Douceur de France in Roswell. "Sweets of France" is the literal translation, but the café serves more than tarts, eclairs, brulées and soufflés.

On the menu, chef Luc Beaudet offers Le Pain Perdu (French toast) served as a thick slice of caramelized brioche dipped in crème brulee and topped with strawberries, a fruit coulis sauce and whipped cream. You will also find three egg omelettes and panini breakfasts served with two poached eggs.

Beaudet serves special candies, cakes and colorful pastries for Valentine's Day each year, such as macaron de l'amour prepared with vanilla cream and raspberries.

"For Luc, making pastry is not a job but a passion," says co-owner Danielle Beaudet of her husband. 1173 Alpharetta St., Roswell. 770-650-1173. douceurdefrance.com

We have a guide for the romantically challenged this Valentine's Day. A box of chocolates and a greeting card can be just the beginning of the holiday, which falls on a Sunday this year.

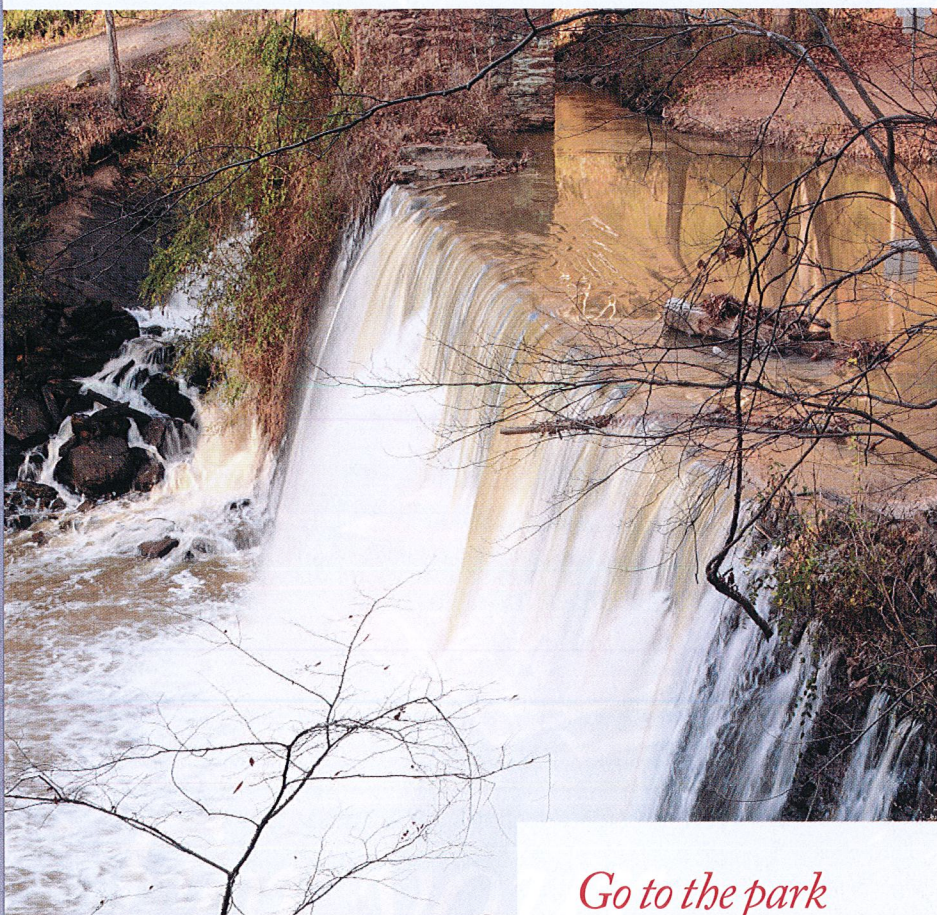


A hot stone massage may be just what the doctor ordered.

Get a couples massage

A variety of treatments at the intimate Sufii Day Spa in Johns Creek can make for a memorable afternoon. For example, following a tea rose oil massage atop side-by-side beds of roses, couples can receive a pedicure and foot mask. Or they can take a 75-minute couples workshop and learn how to give each other massage therapy. Walk-ins are usually welcome, however this time of year appointments go fast. Owner Amy Bafi recommends making appointments ahead of the big day. 3719 Old Alabama Road, Suite 300 C, D & E, Johns Creek. 770-674-4446. sufiidayspa.com »

The waterfall at Historic Vickery Creek Dam offers a scenic backdrop for an amorous afternoon.



Go to the park

• **If your Valentine is a fan of wine and chocolate,** Hinton Wine Store has tastings that include the best wine to pair with each treat. The store owned by former NFL lineman Chris Hinton and his wife, Mya, also offers wine gift baskets, crystal stemware, wine totes and iron wine racks. 8455 Holcomb Bridge Road, Alpharetta. 770-641-1900. thewinestoreinc.com

After relaxing your body and mind, invigorate the spirit with an outdoor or indoor excursion. Nearby, Vickery Creek and the waterfall at Old Mill Park in Roswell provide a scenic backdrop for an amorous afternoon, as well as the many Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area parks and trails. roswellgov.com, nps.gov/chat

Hang out at a record store

Stop in Comeback Vinyl vintage record store in Alpharetta and thumb through some of your favorite classic albums from rock, disco, country, jazz, reggae and more genres.

Comeback co-owner Karen Vernon first started selling her record collection down the street at Green Bean Exchange Antiques and Interiors. Just over a year ago, Alex Vernon, who is Karen's son and business partner, helped expand the inventory to include more recordings, stereo equipment and music memorabilia at a second independent location. 520 S. Main St., Alpharetta. 678-580-0583. comebackvinyl.com

• **Look for deep scratches** when buying previously owned vinyl records. A dusty or dirty record can be cleaned off and still have good sound. Light scratches will likely play OK but have a pops or ticks. Deeper scratches may cause the record to skip.



• **Milton's Cuisine & Cocktails** in the Crabapple Historic District has a pre-set menu for Valentine's Day. On warm, sunny days its garden serves as a getaway for patrons, with ingredients grown for the restaurant's southern fare. 800 Mayfield Road, Milton. 770-817-0161. miltonscuisine.com

• **If you have jewelry in mind for your sweetheart,** Raiford Gallery has colorfully crafted rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings in addition to contemporary art by more than 400 artists. Owner Judie Raiford has been a jeweler since 1970. She or one of the nearly 50 jewelers at the gallery can create a gift item if you don't see something that you like. 1169 Canton St., Roswell. 770-645-2050. raifordgallery.com

See an exhibit at the High Museum of Art

Drive inside the Perimeter to see Iris van Herpen's "Transforming Fashion" exhibit at the High Museum of Art. The 31-year-old Dutch designer is inspired by nature, infrastructure, metal, architecture and other objects. Also walk through one of the museum's ongoing collections, such as Paradise Garden by folk artist Howard Finster. 1280 Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta. 404-733-4400. high.org

Enjoy a romantic dinner and show

As early evening approaches, circle back to the Northside for a romantic bite. The dining room of Villa Christina at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Perimeter provides an intimate ambiance. The dinner menu has a wide selection of entrees and rich pasta dishes like sacchetti – purse-shaped pasta filled with black truffles and cheese in a pesto cream. For Valentine's Day, the hotel is offering a romance package that includes room accommodations and dinner at the restaurant.

Complete Valentine's Day with the comedy "I Hate Hamlet" at Stage Door Players in Dunwoody. It's the story of a famous television actor who despises Hamlet yet has an opportunity to play the Shakespearean character on a New York stage. Moreover, the ghost of John Barrymore in full Hamlet attire visits him.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta Perimeter at Villa Christina, 4000 Summit Boulevard N.E., Brookhaven. 678-539-1234. villachristina.com; Stage Door Players, 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody. 770-396-1726. stagedoorplayers.net ■

