

# xCentric Ideas



*All love that has not  
friendship for its base, is  
like a mansion built upon  
sand.*

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

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by

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This photo my own

# This is for everyone ...



[www.superstock.com](http://www.superstock.com)

Sometimes we get so busy with housework, work, kids, pets ... that we neglect the spark in our relationships.

Couples take for granted the fact that love should be there ... but it's not, you have to work hard at it.

There are so many little ways of showing our love and appreciation – everyone should try to work it into their busy schedules.

It's not always the expensive florist red rose that counts, but the flower picked in the garden, the lovely shell from the beach, the surprise of a 'take-out meal', washing the dishes ...

Love and romance are in the unexpected.

And if you're single, you can do this with your friends. You can bake cookies and give it to a colleague, offer to watch your neighbor's pet or prepare a meal for any or all of your friends.

***This issue is just a guideline – where I suggest gift baskets, use it as a guide and be creative according to your needs.***

## IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS!

# Romantic Decor



Elle Decoration 2001

**W**ho said Valentine's day can only be spent with a special partner?

**T**here are many single girls/guys out there – invite them over and celebrate together.

**A** tablecloth or beautiful piece of material in the centre of your lawn, patio or lounge floor, will form your “table”. Decorate with cutlery, plates and serviettes.

**A**rrange scatter cushions or flat, square pillows around your “table”.

**M**ove (or remove) the furniture and decorate with bunches of fresh flowers/candles/pot plants.

**F**or a cosy, Moroccan tent-effect, decorate this space with a big, outside umbrella on its stand.

**D**rape the umbrella with organza/gauzy fabric/curtains to form “tent walls” and hang small tea-light holders from the umbrella spikes.

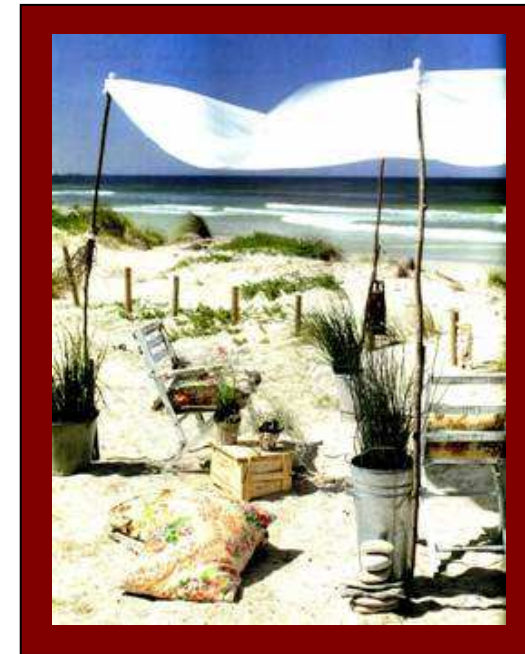


**I**f this canopy can work on a beach, I see absolutely no reason for it not to work in your backyard.

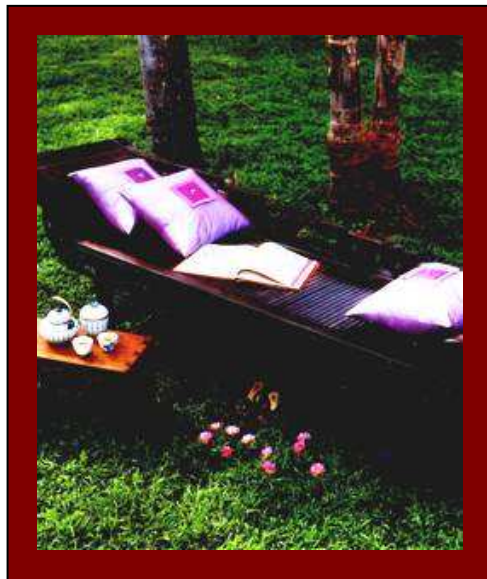
**I**f the soil is too hard for the wooden sticks, prop them into big pots of soil or pebbles/stones.

**T**ie a big piece of material onto the corners or why not use a Queen-size or King-size flat sheet?

**A**rrange a table and chairs on the grass, or use blankets and fluffy pillows. Place lanterns or candles all around, to create a romantic feel at night.



Elle Decoration Summer 2001



Garden & Home Oct 2005

**C**arry a lovely couch into your garden under the trees.

**S**erve a finger meal by feeding each other.

**S**ip lovely wine, beer, cold drinks, coffee or tea.

**M**ake it your special meal – anything goes!



Essentials October 2002

**R**omantic garden steps - punch holes in paper bags to form a pattern.

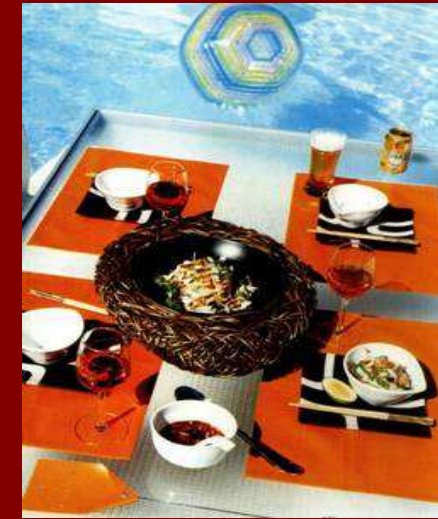
**F**ill halfway with sand to stabilise the candles.



Essentials October 2002

**P**lace stones in a group in the centre of a table or along a window ledge.

**S**tick candles onto them with glue or Prestik.



Top Billing Magazine Jan 2005

**I**s it sweltering hot and you have a pool? Or even if it's a pool in the complex?

**H**ave a romantic pool event.

**P**lastic trays float easily – decorate them with lovely plastic plates and glasses, finger foods and drinks and have a blast!

# Romantic Gestures



[www.johnlund.com](http://www.johnlund.com)

**L**ay out his clothes for work while he's in the shower.

**I**f your female partner wears a uniform to work, lay out her clothes.



[www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)

**S**lip a bag of nuts into a handbag/briefcase for work with a note: 'I'm nuts over you.'



<http://weheartit.com>

**W**rite a message on the mirror ...

# King & Queen of the Castle



<https://xleecartercompany.merchantquest.net>

**M**ake a paper crown or buy a sparkly crown from a party shop.

For a few hours, he is the King of the house, can make the rules and be in charge of the remote control.



<http://party-princess.co.uk/>

**R**oyal rule: avoid any effort or strain. Beautiful tiaras can be bought from any party shop.

Switch off your cell, order take-aways, watch movies and sip sparkling wine.



# Romantic Serving..

**W**hen last have you used your pretty teapot?

**H**eated syrup/honey will flow easily from the spout onto heaps of French toast/waffles or pancakes.



Tuis April 2006

## SHOOTER TRAY

**A**rrange crushed ice on a tray.

**D**ip the rims of your shooter glasses into water and coloured sugar.

**A**dd Maraschino cherries to the liqueur and settle glasses in the ice.

**S**erve immediately.



Visi summer 2003/2004





[www.activityvillage.co.uk](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk)



[Familyfun.go.com](http://Familyfun.go.com)

**U**se heart-shaped cookie cutters or just your knife and transform ordinary into romantic!



[www.twincitiesrestaurantblog.com](http://www.twincitiesrestaurantblog.com)

# Romantic dessert

## Frozen Tutti-Frutti

½ cup walnuts / pecan nuts, chopped  
1 x 410 g tin pear halves, drained, chopped  
50 g glace cherries, chopped  
125 g pitted dates, chopped  
12 marshmallows, chopped  
250 g creamed cottage cheese  
25 ml castor sugar  
250 ml fresh cream, whipped stiff

Mix the nuts, pears, cherries, dates & marshmallows.  
Cream the cottage cheese and castor sugar.

Add the fruit & nuts to the cottage cheese mixture.  
Fold the whipped cream into the mixture. Pour into a  
form and freeze till set. Only remove at time of  
serving, otherwise it 'melts' too much.

*Recipe: Anna Eksteen (Anna se kombuis)*



Photo my own

# Romantic Gifts for both of you



## GARDENER

Line a small terracotta pot with coloured tissue paper. Fill with packets of seeds, a pair of gardening gloves, a garden magazine and a hand digging fork.



## SPORT FAN

Fill a large bowl purchased at the Excitement Store with candy bars, bags of microwave popcorn, sodas/beers, chips, dips, their team's flag or hat and a calendar of game days.



## BREAKFAST GIFT

Package of cold meat, eggs, jam, croissants/muffins and cheese. Wrap this with cellophane paper in a cast iron frying pan. Or in a pretty little box.



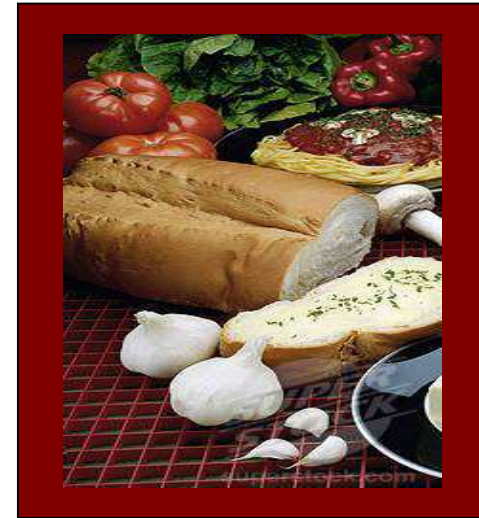
### RELAXATION BASKET

Line a basket with a hand towel. Add a lavender candle, bath oil or bubble bath, bath salts, a favourite magazine, scented soap and a “DO NOT DISTURB” sign. (Make one out of a piece of cardboard.)



### ICE CREAM LOVER

Place pastel coloured tissue paper on the bottom of a basket. Add an ice cream scoop, nuts, hot fudge sauce, Maraschino cherries and a big container of decadent ice cream.



### PASTA LOVER

Take a large cheeky red-and-white striped dishcloth. Fill it with a packet of spiral pasta, a pasta sauce, a packet of black olives, some fresh chillies and fresh basil leaves. Tie the dishcloth together at the top with a stick.





### MEMORIES OF TRAVELS

If your partner/friend loves to travel, fill a small travelling bag with a travel journal, stationery, fine writing pen, travel candle, family photo album and soothing linen sprays for the nights away from home.



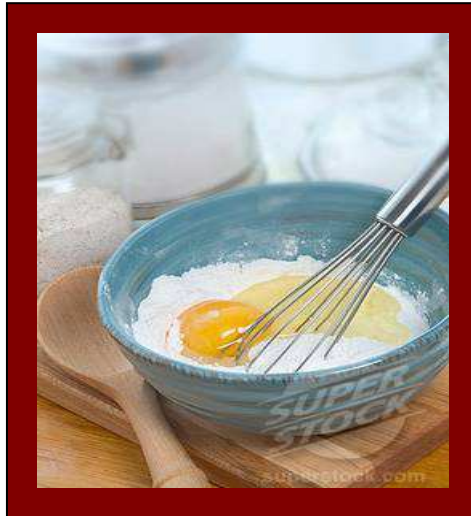
### SHOWS / THEATRE

See what shows are coming to your area and purchase tickets to the theatre, a local musical, a murder mystery theater or a comedy show.



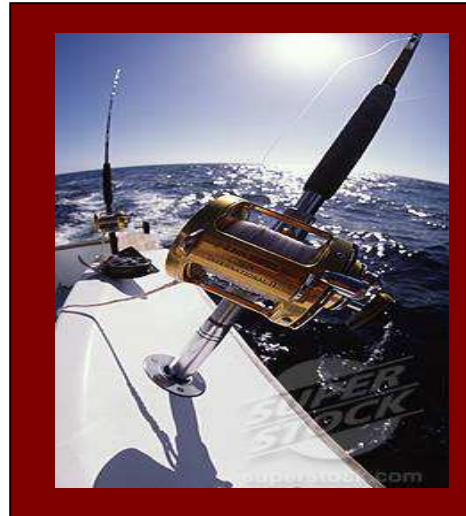
### ROSES

Does your partner love roses and have a garden? Buy a rose bush. If you live close or together, make a team effort with lemonade and sunscreen and choose the best spot to plant it.



### **BAKER'S DELIGHT**

For the baker, line a large mixing bowl with a dish towel. Add cookie mixes, hot chocolate mixes, brownie mix, muffin mix, a package of walnuts, measuring cups and pot holders.



### **FISHERMAN**

In a tackle box or fish bowl, arrange hooks, bait, line, hot chocolate or sodas, beers, snacks, gloves and a fishing magazine.



### **WINE LOVER**

Buy some favourite bottles of wine and add cheese, crackers, a cork screw, a pretty bottle top cork and a couple of elegant wine glasses – all presented in a box or basket.



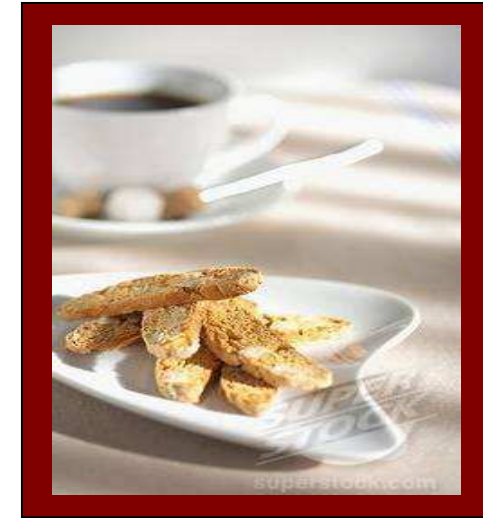
### **BBQ FANS**

Line a basket with a big, brightly coloured serviette. Choose a favourite BBQ sauce. Add bags of chips, beer and/or coolers, homemade potato salad and big soft cookies wrapped in coloured cellophane.



### **INDIAN BASKET**

Arrange homemade or purchased garam masala and other curry spice mixes, poppadums, coconut milk, a pretty mirrored, iridescent or Indian print tablecloth and your favourite Indian recipe.



### **COFFEE / TEA BASKET**

On a pretty tray, arrange Biscotti or rusks, a bag of filter coffee/box of favourite tea and a pretty mug/cup. Add shortbread cookies - add packets of organic sugar. Wrap in cellophane.



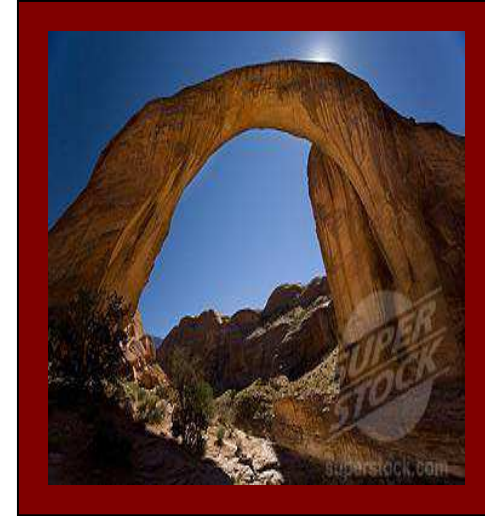
### CHEF

In a mixing bowl, arrange an apron, some wooden spoons, fragrant spices and what's a chef without wine? Include a bottle of favourite wine and a funky wine glass.



### GOLF LOVERS

Arrange golf balls, tee's, a sun visor, facial sunscreen, a pair of golf gloves and a classy golf t-shirt in a bucket.



### SNAPSHOTS

Is your partner an avid photographer? Why not buy a digital camera? Or take some of their best snapshots and enlarge and frame/block it.





### **CAMPING**

For the avid camper, line a basket with a cheerful tablecloth and fill with mosquito repellent, a strong torch, a cast-iron pot / kettle and matches. And don't forget the 'something' to drink around the campfire.



### **D.I.Y.**

Even for the enthusiastic DIY person, there's always something they still need.

Keep an ear out and buy some screwdrivers, gloves, protective glasses or measuring tapes.



### **FARMING**

For the farmer, buy a pair of snazzy Wellington boots, a windbreaker-jacket and a flask for hot coffee / tea. Wrap it all in brown paper and decorate with sticks and leaves.

Be original in  
your choice of  
gift voucher.

## GIFT VOUCHER

This gift voucher entitles me, **John Doe**, to

***coffee/tea in bed for a Sunday.***

When: **Sunday ..... 2012**

Can I please have filter coffee/tea in bed with a newspaper?  
I LOVE YOU!

## GIFT VOUCHER

This gift voucher entitles me, **Jane Doe**, to

***a glass of wine and a bath drawn by my  
Partner.***

When: **Sunday ..... 2012**

Will you please keep the children/pets  
occupied? I LOVE YOU!