

Make Me A Match

Stanger gives romance advice for high-end clients

As we get closer and closer to Valentine's Day, no doubt many men are scrambling to find just the perfect way to celebrate. After all, if they get it wrong it will be a long time before their wife or girlfriend will let them forget it.

So who better to turn to for advice than Patti Stanger. Stanger is a third-generation matchmaker and the owner of Millionaire's Club International, an exclusive matchmaking club for high-end clients. She is also the star of "The Millionaire Matchmaker" on Bravo.

To say that Stanger has strong opinions about what guys should do for Valentine's Day would be a major understatement. But it's understandable since Stanger is really in the business of love. And she



Angela
HENDERSON

loves Valentine's Day.

"I love the hope," Stanger said in a recent phone interview. "Even if you're not in love. It's like New Year's."

So what is the best thing for men to do for their wife or girlfriend on Valentine's Day? "You must have a meal," Stanger said. "You have to have food. You have to have champagne [or a non-alcoholic equivalent]. Break out the bank account. I don't care if you have to save all year. Men need to pump it up." Stanger said it's also important to make plans because even the simplest ones make a big difference. "Women like it when a man plans it."

Stanger said it's important to go out somewhere and not just stay home, but she understands couples that decide to go out on another night because Valentine's Day can be so busy at restaurants. However, she warned that you can't just say you'll do it on another night. "You have to make the plans," she said.

But probably Stanger's strongest opinions are about what makes the best gift. "The cheapest thing a man can do is just give a card. It should come with a gift," she said.

So what is the best gift? "You can't get better than jewelry," she said. However, she encourages guys to do a little research. "You've got to know her taste level and her style. Go through her jewelry box. You need to get her what she wants and not what you want. That's the sign



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Millionaire Matchmaker
Patti Stanger

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of a good gift giver.”

Stanger said a gift card is acceptable, but only if it is from a high-end store, like a jewelry store.

When asked about the worst Valentine's Day gift a man can give, Stanger answered, “a toaster oven.” She said anything electric or electronic is a bad gift, other than an iPod. Stanger also cautions against another popular gift — lingerie. She said a lot of women don't like it because they consider it “a gift for the men.”

But what about those men that forget the holiday altogether? How do they get out of the

doghouse? “They better make a second Valentine's Day where they don't tell her where they're going and just tell her what to wear,” Stanger said.

And if you're single and have no date for Valentine's Day, Stanger offers hope. “There's too much pressure from the community and Hallmark. But there's really no urgency. There's no fire. Love happens when it's supposed to.”

You can get more tips from Stanger on her Web site at www.pattistanger.net. “The Millionaire Matchmaker” airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on Bravo.

Angela Henderson writes about television in the Stay Tuned blog on www.herald-dispatch.com.