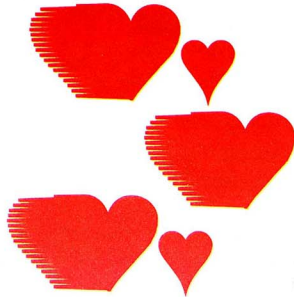


February 10, 2010

## FAVORITE THINGS



## The food of love

By LINDA O'FLANAGAN

We asked for romance, and you didn't disappoint. With Valentines Day coming up, we polled brokers this week on the most romantic dinner spots. Here's what they said ...

**David Kane of Weichert Realtors - Mazzeo Agency** is taking his Valentine to ... the kitchen! The stay-at-home smoothie who's been with his sweetheart for 17 years, said, "This is where the best and heathiest food comes from. While we're there, there's always cold champagne in the 'fridge. From the kitchen we can hear our Barry White records ... and the boudoir is just down the hall. 'Lock the door honey, we're staying in!'"

**Deborah Abraham, a Realtor at Century 21 NY Metro,** said her favorite romantic spot is Top of the

**Les Ambassadeurs in Hotel de Crillon, Paris, is the most romantic restaurant I know. Dinner is a relaxed, romantic and scintillating three-and-a-half hour experience.**

— MAX DOBENS

Tower at the Beekman Tower Hotel.

She said, "I like it because you have a perfect, unobstructed view of the Manhattan skyline. There's excellent white linen service and a piano bar in the middle of the restaurant so you can drift away to the tinkling of the ivories or sing along with others, or just enjoy a quiet, romantic dining experience in the formal dining areas. The food is good, too ..."

**Prudential Douglas Elliman's Victoria Shtainer** admits her heart is won over by a visit to Jean George on Central Park West.

"They have a prix fix dinner [for Valentines night] and it has a heart motif. They always give the lady a red rose. How romantic," she said.

**Antonio del Rosario** takes his wife to Daniel, owned by celebrity chef Daniel Boulud, on East 64th and Park — just around the corner from the del Rosarios.

"You get truffles shaved in front of you and the food, service and ambience are truly unparalleled," said del Rosario, who found the three star French restaurant so romantic, he actually re-proposed to his wife there.

The A.C. Lawrence director of sales recalled, "I kneeled and gave her another ring. Chef Boulud came out and gave us a tour of his sacred kitchen.

"That night was magical. Even though we live nearby, it took us two hours to get home holding hands, interrupted by some smooches."

The firm's executive vice president **Cheryl Greenberg** broke her heart when Tavern on the Green closed last month.

She said, "I'm an old fashioned New Yorker and old fashioned romantic. My husband and I loved it there.

Tavern on the Green was our place and we've had many romantic times there."

While **Elizabeth Cho** said anywhere is romantic, so long as she's with her beau. "I love to be by the water on South Beach in Miami, in numerous restaurants in New York, but nothing is romantic without him."

**Peter Rogers, vice president at Bond New York** said King's Carriage House on East 83rd Street is a very romantic setting.

"It's like having a romantic dinner served to you at home, small, intimate with absolutely out of this world food and a fantastic wine selection."

Colleague **Mitch Constantinescu** said Sandro's at 306 East 81st Street is his choice while practical **Scott Wolf** picked Grano Trattoria. "Best food and extremely reasonable prices," said Scott.

**Platinum Properties' Charles Badalamenti** takes that special someone to The River Café in Brooklyn for a romantic dinner. He said, "Located directly underneath the Brooklyn Bridge, it has the most spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline — for prime viewing, you should schedule your reservation for right before sundown."

We leave the last word to our nominee for Mr. Romance, **Max Dobens at Prudential Douglas Elliman** who romances wife Jacky Teplitzky in Paris.

Max told us, "Les Ambassadeurs in Hotel de Crillon, Paris, is the most romantic restaurant I know. Dinner is a relaxed, romantic and scintillating three-and-a-half hour experience of the best possible French haute cuisine, impeccable service and 14th century ambience."



Charles Badalamenti, Elizabeth Cho, David Kane, Jacky Teplitzky and Max Dobens. Inset, Les Ambassadeurs.