

THE PERFECT RENDEZVOUS

With its infinite variety – 66 Michelin star restaurants, 230 theatres, hundreds of galleries and museums and thousands of licensed establishments – choosing where to go out in London can be pretty daunting. So, we ask Ané Auret award-winning Dating Coach, where she would choose to go for an ideal date.

Now that Neil and I are married we still take dating seriously and love our weekly 'date nights'. We take turns to organize it and it mostly involves food and the theatre in Bath.

What are your favourite things about London?

Now that I live in Bath (which I love and I think is the most beautiful city ever apart from Cape Town) I appreciate all that London has to offer even more when I get there.

My favourite is discovering rooftop bars, views and London skyline at night.

The Parks - especially Hampstead Heath. I used to live a few blocks away and have very fond memories of my time there.

Catching the bus when I'm not in a hurry to get somewhere

The fact that just last week I was in an Uber and the Queen just drove past on her way to Westminster Abbey - and it was just totally 'normal'.

The little South Africa shop in Paddington station where I get my regular biltong (South African cured, dried meat) fix.



Is London romantic enough for an ideal date?

London is beyond romantic enough for the ideal date. No excuses. With a little bit of thought and planning you can have the most amazing time - whether it's breakfast or midnight snacks, a simple walk in one of the parks or the most intellectual debate or philosophical discussion. And there are tons to do for free too - not every date has to be super expensive.

What makes you feel beautiful before a date?

Any excuse to get my hair done - but especially before a date. I'm not a big shopper.

If you're sent flowers before a date what are favourite flowers.

White Lilies

Favourite fragrance:

Narciso Rodriguez - I'm a little bit addicted and have been using it for years.



What would you have in mind if the date was tonight?

Getting my hair and makeup done, jumping in an Uber from Bath to London, drinks at Soho House, take Neil to Boisdales or The Ivy followed by late night mint tea on the Edgware Road.

Where would you go for an early cocktail?

I'd like to check out Sketch in Mayfair - and stay over at Hotel 41 soon.

What's your favourite aperitif?

Straightforward Champagne or a Kir Royal.

Eat before or after the main event? Or is the eating the main event?

Definitely before, but eating is pretty much always the main event for me. And talking. My husband is my favourite person to talk to.

Would you choose an old favourite, new favourite or try somewhere new?

Shoreditch House. The ME Hotel on the Strand - especially the rooftop bar. I also like Brontë on Trafalgar Square for meetings.

Name a place you haven't tried but would like to

NOLA, jazz bar in Shoreditch. So many places in Shoreditch I'd like to try! I just love aimlessly wandering around the little streets.

Favourite wine with dinner

Red wine all the way. A good South African Cabernet Sauvignon or Malbec

Favourite after dinner club.

Soho House

What's your favourite or most memorable date ever?

That has to be my second date with my husband, Neil. He invited me for lunch at Shoreditch House and I said I only had an hour (trying to play it cool!) Our date lasted 9 hours and involved a lot of Prosecco on the roof terrace, watching the sun set over London and holding hands. These days we may end up there for cheeseburgers at 3am after a night out and it's always great.



Do you like to discuss Realpolitik over dinner or prefer to keep it light?

Bit of both - but usually business, technology, current affairs, family, travels and our plans and goals for the future.

What are your main sources of information online?

Can't beat Google, but for planning nights www.designmynight.com/london has some great ideas.

Have the recent political shakeups and increasing dis/misinformation made you want to pay more or less attention to current affairs?

I've always been interested and that hasn't changed. I'm just not sure about trusting the sources as much as I used to in the past perhaps.

Rendezvous club members receive a free consultation with Ané.

If you are a club member and would like to speak to Ané - contact barbara@rendezvous-london.com