

MOTHER'S DAY

Tips for dining out on Mother's Day

Mother's Day is right around the corner, and this special holiday serves to honor all those women who devote so much time and effort to their families. While gifts and other trinkets are certainly part of the celebration, a vast majority of children opt to treat Mom to a night out on the town come Mother's Day. Not only does this give mom a night off from cooking, but also it presents an opportunity to get dressed up and spend time together as a family.

A vast number of families travel to their favorite restaurants for Mother's Day meals. Mother's Day is one of the busiest holidays of the year for restaurants. The National Retail Federation says 54.8 percent of Americans treat their mothers to a special meal out on Mother's Day. Billions of dollars are generated by people eating out with their mothers. With large crowds to be expected, diners can follow a few tips when treating Mom to a meal.

Book early ... very early

To guarantee a reservation at any restaurant, namely your favorite restaurant, you will need to make a reservation well in advance of Mother's Day.



It's never too early to put your name on the reservation list. Don't forget Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13.

Expect to wait

Even with a reservation, you're bound to spend some time waiting at the restaurant. Other families may be lingering at their tables, as no one wants to rush Mom out

of the door. Plan accordingly for a potentially long wait time. This means having a snack before you leave. Don't arrive famished, as no one wants the dining party to be hungry and cranky, which is not a good way to celebrate Mom. Have plenty of snacks and drinks on hand for young children, as well as activities to keep them entertained.

Consider dining out a day before or after

Restaurants are generally packed on Mother's Day, and as a result, kitchen and wait staffs might be overtaxed. What's more, diners might be relegated to a special or abbreviated menu. If you want a more relaxed setting and the ability to order whatever you desire, it may be a better idea to

celebrate Mother's Day in advance. Then have Mom enjoy a relaxing day at home on her special day.

Takeout is an option

Families can treat Mom to a dinner out, without really having to go out. Many restaurants offer takeout service, so you will not be limited to pizza or Chinese. Even chain restaurants have

curbside service, so if Mom is in the mood for a burger or something more elaborate, she'll have that option.

Expect an included gratuity

Restaurants often include a gratuity in the bill when servicing larger parties, such as those that might be celebrating Mother's Day. The standard gratuity rate is 18 percent, but you may want to go above and beyond if you feel the service is exemplary.

Hire a sitter for young kids

Although Mother's Day is a chance for the entire family to spend time together, the main goal is to ensure Mom's comfort and happiness. If very young children are in tow, she may not be able to relax and enjoy her meal. Infants will need to be fed, and toddlers may be easily distracted. Have a sitter watch little ones when adults are dining out, and then Mom can enjoy time with the kids when she returns home for more celebrating.

Article courtesy of MetroCreative

WIGS

The Wig Lady provides latest styles, personal service

Fay, the Wig Lady, is a certified cosmetologist with extensive professional experience in hair and wig styling for individuals with specific hair needs.

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and other topics, which will help to determine the best wig choice for them.

"If the wig is to be trimmed and styled, I will work with the client to personalize the wig to enhance their facial structure, taking into consideration their hair color preference and skin tone, etc. Next, I educate them in

the simple steps needed to properly care for their wig. Finally, I am always available to my clients to answer any questions or concerns they may have about their wig once they leave the salon."

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MOTHER'S DAY

Consider these unique Mother's Day gift ideas

Mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers and many more remarkable women often work tirelessly and without fanfare to provide for their families. Even though they may deserve to be recognized throughout the year, moms enjoy a special day nestled within the month of May when children, spouses and others celebrate Mother's Day.

Many people give heartfelt gifts on Mother's Day to express their love for the mothers in their lives. The perfect gift may focus on Mom's interests and the things

that make her truly happy. With that in mind, the following shopping tips can help anyone find the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Explore spa packages

What mother won't benefit from some rest and relaxation with a little pampering thrown in? Salons and massage therapists typically put together Mother's Day packages that cater to mothers. Packages may include massages, facials, hair treatments, manicures and pedicures. Gift-givers can customize the ser-

vices depending on their budgets.

Dining out can be a treat

A meal at a favorite restaurant can be a welcome change from kitchen duty. Mother's Day is a busy day for restaurants, many of which have limited menus to better handle the crowds. As a result, if dining out on Mother's Day, Mom may not get the full menu she desires. To ensure mothers have full menus at their disposal, gift givers can cook a meal at home on Mother's

Day and then choose another day of the week to enjoy a meal in an upscale restaurant.

Schedule a paint and sip

A paint and sip session is a unique gift. A session is typically two hours and includes step-by-step instructions. Patrons are encouraged to bring snacks and their favorite beverages. With the right planning, well-intentioned children can turn the evening into a "ladies night out" and encourage other moms to

join in the fun. Or the entire family can paint masterpieces together.

Give tickets to a show or sporting event

Whether Mom is a sports fan or she prefers the theater or live music, event tickets can make a wonderful gift. Unique gift ideas include tickets to Cirque du Soleil, Shen Yun or a Broadway play.

Give the gift of wine tasting

Wineries can be found across the country and frequently open their doors to wine tastings

and wine pairing events. A Mother's Day wine tasting can be special for the entire family and support local businesses. Check the vineyard's rules on guests. Many times those under 21 can attend but will not be permitted to consume wine, though other refreshments may be available.

Mother's Day offers the perfect opportunity to lavish attention on special women. Gifts that cater to Mom's interests will make the biggest splash.

Article courtesy of MetroCreative

MOTHER'S DAY

Give Mom the gift of going green this Mother's Day

Mom may appreciate chocolate or flowers. But for children who want to offer her something a little more special — especially for their eco-conscious moms — there are a number of different gift options to make Mom's big day as eco-friendly as it is enjoyable.

MAKE A BASKET OF GARDENING GEAR » Garden plants and supplies are perhaps the greenest gifts to give Mom. Plants are so plentiful and varied that there are bound to be ideal flowers or greenery for every mother's tastes. Compile different gardening essentials, such as seeds or seedlings, organic soil mix, mulch, all-natural compost and a few different planting containers. You can also include gardening gloves and ergonomic tools made of recycled materials. Finish the gift with the inclusion of a book that describes different garden designs and gives tips for beginners.



DINE AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT » Many families take Mom out for a meal on her special day. To make the experience eco-friendly, select among restaurants

that are close to home in the area. Explore the possibilities of restaurants that may serve foods made with local, organic ingredients. If you cannot find such a restaurant, do not worry; just choose a local establishment to conserve fuel.

PAY FOR A CAR TUNEUP » Improving the gas mileage on Mom's car is one gift

that can be environmentally friendly. According to the United States Department of Energy, keeping a car in shape can help save money and improve fuel economy. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve Mom's gas mileage by as much as 40 percent. Also, be sure to

have her car tires properly inflated. She can be losing gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every 1 psi drop in all four tires. Getting an oil change with the recommended grade of motor oil is another gas mileage improvement measure.

materials. If Mom is the consummate entertainer, get her new glass tumblers and sipping straws made from recycled glass. They are perfect for serving cocktails and outdoor entertaining.

PAMPER MOM WITH ORGANIC PRODUCTS » What mom doesn't enjoy a little pampering from time to time? You can treat your mother to a spa experience at home by assembling a basket full of organic shampoo, conditioner, massage oils, bath salts and any other organic spa items you can find.

SELECT ORGANIC FRUITS AND FLOWERS » Companies like organicbouquet.com can assemble a bouquet made from responsibly grown flowers or even a wreath for a wall or door. They also have food gifts, from organic fruits to nuts.

SPEND THE DAY OUTDOORS » Most moms cherish any gift from their children, whether lavish or simple. A nice, eco-friendly gift is to spend time together. Research local parks or hiking trails and plan a day where you both commune with nature. Or even head to the seaside for a relaxing day. Explore the landscape and be on the lookout for birds and washed up treasure from the sea. Plan to finish the day with a homemade, picnic lunch.

— MetroCreative

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JEWELRY

Silver Shoppe a longtime Pottstown-area tradition



COURTESY OF DAN CREIGHTON

The Silver Shoppe at 2452 E. High Street in Lower Pottsgrove Township is the perfect place to find a special Mother's Day gift.

Silver Shoppe

Each family has its own Mother's Day traditions. Sunday services, brunch and special family time are all part of the tradition, and each mother in the family will receive a gift, whether it be flowers, candy or some other special thing. As families expand, there are many mothers who must be included ... your own mother, mother of your children, mother of your grandchildren and on and on. Shopping for the perfect gift for the many mothers

in your family should include a visit to The Silver Shoppe. The Silver Shoppe has long been a tradition for many families when they are considering their Mother's Day gifts. They know the gift they choose will be special as the Silver Shoppe is unique to the Pottstown area. Stained glass and plants decorate the store, and a wood-burning stove dominates in one corner of the shop, delighting the eye. This Mother's Day, continue the tradition by visiting the Silver Shoppe, where you will find that

special something for your special mother. Uwe Bauer, the silversmith, has been creating original designs in sterling silver and with a variety of semi-precious stones. A collection of jewelry that is distinctive to the Pottstown area now graces the shelves and showcases of his store located at 2452 E. High St., Lower Pottsgrove Township. It is not at all difficult to find the perfect gift at the Silver Shoppe. Beautiful bracelets, necklaces and earrings are all made from sterling silver

and designed with exciting swirls, scrolls, flowers and sleek lines designed to catch the eye. The look can be either rich with ornamentation or fashionably plain and simple. One of Bauer's favorite techniques is to drop molten pieces of silver into cold water and let the molten silver cool into a variety of unique and distinctive shapes, which are then used to create one-of-a-kind bracelets, necklaces, rings and earrings. The variety of shapes resulting from this process

means that all jewelry creations are one of a kind. Semi-precious stones add brilliant splashes of color to the jewelry. Bright turquoises, blood-red garnets, dark onyxes and lovely amethysts are among the many different stones available. There is a multitude of colorful and variegated agates available, from Blue Lace Agate to Leopard to Green Botswana Agate, each with its own unique character. There are also many pieces made with synthetic semi-precious stones such

as synthetic rubies, emeralds, sapphires and various colored topazes for that expensive look at an affordable price. View a 30-minute video on YouTube showcasing the Silver Shoppe. You can find the video by searching on YouTube for "The Silver Shoppe." A link to the video is also available on www.thesilvershoppe.com. Regular business hours are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 pm; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 pm. The Silver Shoppe is closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.



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