Four Places to “Treat” Your Date this Valentines

 Whether you are looking to heat things up with some hot chocolate or cool things down with a friend, there are a variety cupid’s confectioneries to help you set the right mood. No matter your intentions these four places in Salt Lake City are bound to leave you with a good taste on your lips.

Galentine’s Get Together:

**Howdy Homemade •** 2600 S 2000 E, Salt Lake City; 801-410-4302 or [www.howdyslc.com](http://www.howdyslc.com)

 Howdy’s may appear to be just your local ice-cream parlor, but its awards and atmosphere prove it to be otherwise. As recipient of Best of State Award for ice cream twice since it opened in 2017, Howdy’s offers unique flavors and excellent service. With 24 delicious flavors varying from vanilla to Dr. Pepper chocolate chip, this joint has something for everyone.

 It is not just the ice-cream that is yielding repeat customers though, it’s the emphasis on community. Howdy’s incorporates ingredients from other local business to create their unique flavors including coffee from Publik, and mint oil from farms in Utah. Apart from ingredients, Howdy incorporates the community in their ice-cream shop in a way no other place in Utah does. Their mission is to provide jobs in the community specifically to individuals with disabilities.

 “We want to provide opportunities in the front of our store for employees to interact with customers. Most opportunities available right now place employees with special needs in the back. We emphasize our employees’ skills and great attitude which makes our store a comfortable place, said Courtney Nielson, Howdy store manager.

 For Valentines the shop is setting up decorations and offering chocolate strawberry ice-cream. With games to play on the tables and the family friendly atmosphere, this is a great place to bring your friends for a casual night out.

Set the mood:

**Fillings & Emulsions •** 1475 Main St, Salt Lake City; 385-229-4228 or [www.fillingsandemulsions.com](http://www.fillingsandemulsions.com)

 Fillings & Emulsions offers a variety of decadent desserts that are sure to impress any date. The Latin patisserie provides treats palatable to the eye, from powdered croissants to macrons in every hue. The pastries are delicious too, earning this establishment the awards of 2018 Best of Utah Bakesale, and 2018 Best of Utah Desserts.

 Adalberto Diaz, executive Chef and Founder, has been bringing his love of color and pastry expertise to Utahans since he opened the store in 2013. The patisserie provides customers with a variety of options to satisfy any sweet-tooth. From brilliantly colored cheesecake to buttery brioche, Fillings & Emulsions has you covered. It even offers treats for your friend on the salty-side with options like Cuban sandwiches and chicken meat pie.

 Indulge this Valentine’s with strawberry champagne cheesecake or a strawberry croissant. These specialties will only be around on the week proceeding and following Valentines and they are not to be missed. Beware, these items sell out early in the day, due to the store’s reputation for tasty confections.

 The patisserie will close at six on Valentines, which may pose a problem for late-night lovers. Come in earlier that week to purchase a pastry and leave it in the fridge. This will allow you to create a sophisticated ambience in the comfort of your own home. The cheesecake is the perfect size to share, but I won’t judge you if you gobble it up on your own. Heaven knows I have.

For dates who haven’t determined the relationship:

**Sweetaly •** 1527 S 1500 E, Salt Lake City; 801-410-4192 or [www.sweetalygelato.com](http://www.sweetalygelato.com)

 Sweetaly is everything its name implies: sweet, Italian, and playful. The dessert shop handcrafts their gelato daily with rBST-Free milk. They provide authentic Italian flavors like mascarpone, stracciatella, and bacio which are sure to impress your cultured date. Don’t worry, they also offer the basics like chocolate and strawberry if the closest you have gotten to Italy is their storefront.

 “Sweetaly is my go-to spot. My wife and I love it because there are so many different options. They change up their menu frequently which keeps us coming back,” said Spencer Lindsley, avid customer.

 This Valentine’s Sweetaly is offering a variety of citrus flavors to add tang to a normal night out. Some of their popular seasonal flavors include blood orange, pomegranate strawberry, and lemon biscotti. If your hoping to heat things up with your date the store’s affogato offered seasonally might be the better choice. This treat combines gelato with expresso, with a healthy (okay, not-so-healthy, but desired) garnish of whipped cream.

 This gelateria offers a retro atmosphere with old-school posters and a jukebox nestled in the corner. It is the perfect place to bring a date when you are looking for a dessert option that winks at romance without being excessive. Since it closes at 9:30 p.m. you’ll have just enough time to grab dinner before ending the night with something sweet.

Romantic Experience:

**Hatch Family Chocolates •** 376 8th Ave, Salt Lake City; 801-532-4912 or [www.hatchfamilychocolates.com](http://www.hatchfamilychocolates.com)

 Hatch Family Chocolates provides chocolate in a variety of forms that are sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. Whether you are looking for ice cream, hot chocolate, berry clusters, or a hand-dipped delectable, this store will assure you that everything in life can be made better when it is dipped in their chocolate. The mission of this chocolaterie is to bring joy with every delightful purchase.

 “We sell love the most at Valentines. What we sell is a little appreciation to give to others. We are trying to sell happiness,” says Steve Hatch, owner and chocolatier.

 This store is committed to bringing joy to the community. They offer “Magic Mondays”, live bands on the first and third Friday of every month, and movie nights during the summer. Hatch Family Chocolates proves that its more than just quality sweets that leave people feeling like a kid in a chocolate shop, it’s the experience.

 “The world is crazy and there is so much negativity. What we provide is a safe haven for people to forget their problems and stresses. Everything we do here is trying to sell a little piece of mind and a feeling of happiness,” said Hatch.

 Hatch enjoys starting each day with a raspberry sugar cookie but he says there is something on the menu for everyone. Cherry cordials, a seasonal favorite, are always a good choice. While you can buy their assorted hand-dipped chocolates in advance, this store is best experienced first-hand.

 No matter where you pick, supporting these stores is sure to make this holiday a little bit sweeter.