Cupid's Helper

Now showing

Valentine's Day numbers to know

Valentine's Day is one of the most popular days of the year to celebrate. Here's a look at some interesting numbers associated with this day to celebrate the love people have for one another.

400: The year that Pope Gelasius declared February 14 a day to honor Saint Valentine.

62: The percentage of adults who say they celebrate the holiday.

1.7: The amount, in billions, that is spent on candy for Valentine's Day, according to the National Retail Federation.

512: The average dollar amount spent per person for Valentine's Day.

58: The number of pounds, in millions, of chocolate bought during Valentine's Day week.

150: The number of cards and gifts, in millions, sent each year for the day of love.

1: The dollar amount, in billions, that Americans are expected to spend on Valentine's Day cards.

61: Percentage of men who purchase flowers or plants for Valentine's Day.

15: Average cost, in dollars, of a box of chocolates.

8.6: Amount of dollars, in millions, spent on sparkling wine for Valentine's Day, making it the second most popular occasion, after New Year's Eve, to enjoy some bubbly.

150: The average amount, in dollars, men spend on gifts. Women spend an average of \$74 on gifts.

SOURCES: NRF, Greeting Card Association, National Confectioners Association, U.S. Postal Service, USDA.



Romantic films couples can watch together for Valentine's Day

any people feel the best way to celebrate Valentine's Day is to enjoy an evening at home with the one they love. A quiet dinner followed by a romantic movie can make for a relaxing, memorable Valentine's Day.

Romantic films pluck at the heartstrings and leave few dry eyes in the house. This genre has produced many unforgettable moments in film. While many people have their

pivotal scene when Lloyd holds up a boombox playing Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes."
The Notebook (2004): Based on Nicholas

Sparks' novel of the same name, this modern cult classic is set in 1940s South Carolina. The movie is the tale of a poor man who falls in love with a rich young woman, only to be separated by their social differences. However, true love ultimately prevails in the end.

• Gone With the Wind (1939): This sweep-



go-to romantic films, it can be fun to rethink those preferences and watch something new. The following are just some of the films dubbed "the most romantic movies" by sources such as AMC, TimeOut magazine, Rotten Tomatoes, and Flavorwire.

· Beauty and the Beast (1991): This animated classic tells the tale of a prince who is disfigured into a beast to outwardly represent his internal ugliness. Only true love can break the spell, which seems unlikely until the lovely Belle comes into the Beast's life. Fans of the animated film will have another opportunity to fall in love again with the live-action retelling of the story set for release in March 2017.

Once (2007): A modern-day busker in Dublin has a chance meeting with a Czech immigrant. The two begin to collaborate musically and a romance blossoms. The film features musician Glen Hansard and his Irish band "The Frames."



ing epic is set in the antebellum south during the American Civil War. The story of Scarlett O'Hara's tangled love affairs has been popular with film fans for nearly 80 years.

• Sense and Sensibility (1995): This film is a dramatic interpretation of Jane Austen's novel published in 1811. Sudden financial struggles force the Dashwood sisters to move to a distant cottage. Locals develop romantic feelings for the ladies in this story that is considered an early example of the romantic novels of today.

• Roman Holiday (1953): A European princess is disillusioned with her life and needs an escape. She takes off for a night in Rome and meets an American reporter, who first thinks he can get the exclusive scoop on the runaway princess. However, romance soon gets in the way of that plan.

 The Princess Bride (1987): Wesley and Buttercup begin with a tumultuous ser-