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Culture

# PATTI STANGER ANSWERS OUR LOVE QUESTIONS

*Hollywood's favorite matchmaker gets us a date.*



By Romy Oltuski





Two-drink maximum? "Not today!" Patti Stanger exclaims, pouring me another tall glass of wine, in defiance of the one rule she enforces at all her mixers on *The Millionaire Matchmaker*. Does she ever break the rule herself? "Have you seen me with tequila?" Patti rebuts.

The occasion for my midday Bacchanalia with Patti (during which she remains sober throughout and I get increasingly drunker) is the launch of her new wine line, **PSMatch**, which includes a Chardonnay and Sweet Rosso that hit stores this month and a Prosecco and Rosé coming this fall.

Now that Valentine's Day has passed—and with it the anxiety that accompanies the pursuit of love in February—we at Harper's BAZAAR compiled our quandaries and sought out the advice (some of which we'll follow) of Hollywood's most loquacious matchmaker.

### **Social media background check before a first date: good or bad idea?**

Find out where they work, what they do for a living—all the basics—but no further. The minute you Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram stalk them, you're screwing yourself. The more information you have, the less likely it is that you'll like the person because if you don't like one picture, you'll be biased.



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**I have romantic feelings for a friend. I can't tell whether it's unrequited or whether he's just too shy to make a move. How do I find out?**

Say, "Hey, what's your story? Do you have a girlfriend? Because, you know, you're super cute." And then walk away. Leave him in a lurch. He'll go to the bathroom. He'll get schwing.

**I suspect my boyfriend is cheating on me. How should I confront him?**

Ask him. If you can't, take his phone.

**Where are all the good guys hiding?**

The best men come out during the day, not the night. Did you know that? They're at the sports park; they're buying groceries; they're going to Whole Foods; they're taking their kids out to the swings, the baseball field; they're going to the gym; they're getting a smoothie. Most men who are really smart are active. You can meet anyone standing in line in New York—we don't have that in LA. Also, join groups, your ski houses and wine clubs. And most importantly, steakhouses. Everyone says all the men are at Strip House. We're going to Strip House!

**What do you think about women dating younger men?**

Ten years younger and ten years above is fine. Of course, you're not going to date a 16-year-old when you're twenty, but once you hit your thirties you're in the clear.

**My relationship just ended in the most spectacular fashion. He was cheating on me with a friend and everyone knows. How do I handle it while keeping my composure?**

Disappear for a week; go to a spa; come back all fucking Zen. They will be so shocked that they'll think you're the hero in the end. Anybody looks up to a person who really overcomes romantic adversity. Jennifer Aniston is the perfect example. She got hurt by one of the most popular men in the world. And with Angelina Jolie. How do you get revenge? End up with Justin Theroux. Find somebody new. My mother says the best way to get over a man is to get under another man.

**What's the best way to end a date that drags on?**

About three years ago, I was on a terrible date from Plenty of Fish, but the guy was really nice. I leaned over, and I said, "Listen, I don't think we have any chemistry. I don't want to hold you up and make you waste money on me. How about if I meet anyone for you, I'll send them your way, but I think I'm going to leave." And I got up and left. He wrote me a

thank-you note.

When the guy is rude and disruptive, I've snuck out the back and asked the maître d' to tell him I'm leaving (you should always know the maître d's name).

But if it's a good date, I would say "Thanks for the drinks, I have other plans."

### **The age-old question: What's the graceful way to handle the bill?**

Whoever asked the person out pays. If you asked out, you're at risk. You can offer to chip in, but I warn you, if you do and he takes the money, you don't want him. (If you're in college, it's a different story. You're pooling in your money. But we're talking about grown men in the working world, the Peter Pans). If you want to be sure that he pays, go to the bathroom, or when the check comes say, "Thanks for dinner!"

### **My boyfriend is a flirt. I know he's faithful, but it still pisses me off. How do I make him stop?**

You need to tell him that it hurts when he flirts. Here's what I would say: flirt when I'm not around. It's the way he knows he's still got it and feels young again. Eventually you get to a place where you go, "If you continue to do this, I will leave." The only other thing you could do is give him a taste of his own medicine. Once in a while you need to shock someone into shape. Abso-fucking-lutely.

### **This is 2015. Should I really not sleep with a man on a first date if I want to?**

The problem is you-slept-with-me-on-the-first-date syndrome. He'll think, "If you slept with me, how many other men did you sleep with?" It's a double standard. Always will be. It's just the way it is.

### **What about your "no sex before monogamy" rule—is that one really necessary?**

If you want to get married. If you don't want to get married, and you want to play, and you're in your fifties, and you've seen it all and done it all, go ahead. Oxytocin's not strong then, so you get away with it. But when you're young and estrogen is surging through your blood and creating oxytocin, you could get bonded to garbage. Do you want that, just because of one juicy-goosy orgasm?



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### **I'm falling for a friend's ex. What are the rules?**

Ooh, friend's ex—that's so against the code. Examine: Why are you falling for the ex? Is it because you were jealous that she got him? What's really the motivation? You can ask for permission, but you're crossing into terrible territory. You're going to lose your friend in the end, so which do you want more, the friend or the guy? If it was just a date or three-month fling, okay, but the friend's not going to be happy, especially if they're not in a new relationship.

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