

THE MILLIONAIRE MATCHMAKER PATTI STANGER GIVES HER ADVICE FOR SINGLE LATINAS LOOKING FOR LOVE!

BY SAMANTHA LEAL (/AUTHOR/SAMANTHA-LEAL) • OCTOBER 10, 2014 • 10:09AM



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While being single can be fun, it can also be a ton of work. Where do you meet people? What's the biggest no-no when it comes to love? Are you even dating *right*? Well chicas, get ready to dominate that dating (<http://www.latina.com/tag/dating>) scene. We got the scoop for singles from The Millionaire Matchmaker (<http://www.bravotv.com/the-millionaire-matchmaker>) herself, **Patti Stanger**. And what she told us will blow your mind. (So write this down.)

What's the biggest obstacle for singles today?

Getting online. Just do it.

And the biggest obstacle for online dating?

Choosing a decent picture of yourself. Not with your 15 cats and not with your 20 hot guys or not with the alcohol in your hand and not the skydiving shot where I can barely see you.

Women! Get a better picture, get a better guy.

And I say, get professional shots. I'm not saying go to Glamour Shots, but you can get a decent photographer now. For a couple of hundred bucks you'll get a great photo that you can use for everything – and it's retouched. Get your hair done – Dry Bar is so affordable – buy those coupons and get a membership every month. And now there's new places that will come to your house! Honestly, just get that done and you'll feel 100% more confident.

On your show, you really enforce a two-drink maximum. Is that something you think is really important – limiting alcohol intake?

I do. I think clarity is important. I think if you're at dinner you could go to three, but I would be careful. Most girls are lightweights. They can't drink men under the table, men can go further.

But if a man starts drinking three, four drinks she's starting to think, "is he an alcoholic? Is he going to do this every time?" You start making assumptions. We're very judgmental.

Family is huge with Latinas. What are some of your rules when it comes to introducing family?

I definitely feel like you gotta wait awhile before papa bear gets to meet the guy. Just give the relationship some time. You want to be sure it's something serious.

And on the flipside – what's the biggest way to get over pre-meeting-the-parents jitters?

Bring something. Especially if you're coming to a Latino household – always bring something for the parents, wine or something to eat. Just don't go empty handed.

Besides online dating – how do singles meet? Where can people go?

Honestly, most people *are* meeting online. But if you're a Latina looking to find a guy and you're sick of crowded, noisy bars and that, go to a steakhouse. Go around a quarter to five, and you want to sit at the bar. And the first thing you want to do is be friendly to the bartender, no matter if it's a girl or a guy. And tip them well. Order an appetizer, get a glass of wine and hangout. Bring a gender-neutral book and obviously, look your best. And just smile and look away, and when you catch his eyes, do the five-second flirt – holding eye contact and smiling. And if he comes over, he's your guy. He'll want to buy you a drink. If he doesn't? He doesn't have a lot of money, fine, or he's a total narcissist. So it's a gamble.

But more importantly, if he doesn't come over, he's batting for the other team or a ton of other factors – you're a brunette and he likes blondes, he's married or seeing someone... But if he comes over, that's showing he's a real guy. It's showing he's taking initiative – and you're not going to have to do *all* the work in the relationship.

And another secret? Most men go to the same restaurants, especially for happy hour, over and over again. So you can start in your neighborhood, but if you want to be really assertive and racy, go to a completely different neighborhood and restaurant. That way, if nothing happens with a guy or he's a total loser, who cares? You're not going back to that restaurant anytime soon.

Any dating don'ts?

Those who travel in packs don't attract. You want to go by yourself. That's a proven fact. Most men are intimidated by groups of women, and won't go up to them. And it hurts you: A) if they're a student or aren't made of money, they don't want to have to buy the whole group a round of drinks and B) you run the risk of your friend ruining your chances with a guy and C) you run the risk of your friend catching his eye! So there's a lot of reasons why going by yourself is your best bet. Nab the guy, then intro the friends.

On your show, you also really preach "sex after monogamy" – why?

That's if you want to get married. If you're just dating, do what you want. But scientifically, as women, there's a chemical in your brain that basically, when you have sex – even "eh" sex, you don't have to have an orgasm! – it makes you want to be with that person more. And suddenly, you're in love with a loser.

What are the three biggest hang-ups you see most women dealing with nowadays?

1. Dating people that are not suitable for you. If you know the guy's gay, step away. You're not going to flip him.
2. Talking about the exes. Which is not only really taboo but it also, no matter how you spin it, you look like you have problems. Basically – it doesn't make people want to have sex with you, that's for sure.
3. Don't pump and dump. There's no mystery and there's no reason for him to call you again.

For more on The Millionaire Matchmaker, visit *BravoTV.com* (<http://www.bravotv.com/the-millionaire-matchmaker>).

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14

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ABOUT THIS AUTHOR

Samantha Leal (/author/samantha-leal), Deputy Editor

Sam edits and oversees all site content with a focus on fashion, beauty and lifestyle. When she's not working, you can find her watching way too many YouTube videos and reading (YA novels, mostly). Follow her on Twitter @samanthajoleal (<http://www.twitter.com/samanthajoleal>).

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