



Best Romantic Restaurants

Jersey love stories are as rich and varied as the characters of the state itself. Witness the wedding singer in "The Wishbones" by Tom Perrotta or Ben Affleck's cute-sweet movie "Jersey Girl." You have your own quirky love story. Here are the best 10 restaurants where you can celebrate it.

THE BERNARDS INN

Romance seems to flutter through every corner of this restaurant, thanks to its turn-of-the-century elegance and its sweeping Hollywood veranda. The Bernards Inn manages both grandeur and intimacy, hosting many a romantic evening, from engagements to weddings to subsequent anniversary celebrations. But the love story of the moment is one scheduled for January, part of a town-wide wedding giveaway to a military couple. The Inn plans to host about 80 guests, and other businesses in town are donating flowers, gowns and tuxedos, even wedding rings. "I'm very passionate about the freedom that we have in this country," says executive chef Corey Heyer. "It's a feel-good story for everybody in town," says Harold Imperatore, a principal at the Inn. The wedding event is a story Imperatore loves. The number of very public engagements at his Inn? Not so many. "Just in case it doesn't turn out right." One engagement that did turn out right is that of Michael Vigna, whose then-future bride asked to buy the chair on which she sat when she said "yes," in case it ever was to be sold. For those whose first concern is dinner, the menu here is progressive, seasonal-American, but also expect foie gras, sweetbreads and Long Island duck.

★ **The Bernards Inn**, 27 Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville, (908) 766-0002
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