



Maritza
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Love your home

The founder of Hither Green's Home and Kids on adding a little romance to your castle

With Valentine's Day coming up there are many ways to express feelings of love. It doesn't have to be on 14 February, but since the day is an international celebration, why not go with the flow and have some fun? One of the most popular ways to show that special someone just how much they mean to you is by giving flowers. You Don't Bring Me Flowers of Hither Green, with its vintage retro interior, is both enchanting and cosy. As well creating the most beautiful arrangements of unusual quirky flowers mixed with the more traditional (prices vary), it's also the perfect place to enjoy a romantic late breakfast.

My personal quest to find a new coffee machine took me to Bert and Betty of Greenwich. Sophie Jarman, founder and owner of this fantastically equipped kitchen shop, had the perfect solution for any romantic cooks out there... imagine cooking up a meal with Le Creuset heart-shaped casserole dishes (from £35) or, for smaller attempts, the ramekins (from £10.95) are adorable. Whenever I visit this shop, the staff are always willing to help and make suggestions, and I find that insider info invaluable.

If you're feeling particularly adventurous, turn your front room or boudoir into a sort of Valentine's den, with luscious blankets and cushions and scented candles. Be as simple or extravagant as you like, using items you already have, or spruce up plain old pillows with a pair of Love pillowcases from Lush Designs of Greenwich (£29 per pair). Perfect for a couple's getaway when you can't actually get away.

A handsome wine bucket is a must – with wine, of course. The one pictured top from India Jane of Blackheath (£135) would work brilliantly.



From top to bottom: India Jane wine bucket; You Don't Bring Me Flowers bouquet; Lush Designs Love pillowcases; Le Creuset casserole dish and ramekins.

Stockists

India Jane
3 Blackheath Village SE3 9LA
020 3137 530

You Don't Bring Me Flowers
15 Staplehurst Road SE13 5ND; 020 8297 2333

Lush Designs
8 College Approach SE10 9HY; 020 8293 5662

Bert and Betty
25 Greenwich South Street SE10 8NT; 020 8853 8708

**Romantic cooks out there;
cook up a meal with
Le Creuset heart-shaped
casserole dishes or ramekins**