

# ♥ Valentine's Day Delights ♥

## The Holiday For Lovers Is The Perfect Time For The Gift Of Jewelry

(NAPSA)—Valentine's Day, a tradition continuing from centuries past, has become a worldwide celebration of love and romance. The legends surrounding this special day are as diverse as the lovers who celebrate it. For example, was it named for the martyrdom of two saints named Valentine, or did it emerge from a pagan Roman festival?

Regardless of its origin, February 14th is written in history as an occasion for exchanging gifts that symbolize love and romance. And as wise gift-givers know, fine jewelry ranks high among women's most desired tokens of affection.

For this Valentine's Day, the most treasured jewelry items are those that are personalized and distinctive. You can customize a unique piece for her by having your local jeweler create a bracelet or necklace with your sweetheart's name etched in gold, platinum, or silver.

If diamonds are in your gift-giving plans, for the ultimate in romance you can also have her diamond inscribed with a secret message—thanks to cutting-edge laser technology. The service is available through local jewelers and is performed by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA)—the world's foremost authority in gemology.

Sweethearts love the inscription as the ultimate personal touch. It also provides security as



**A heart-shaped platinum pendant set with diamonds, like the two shown here, can make for a wonderful Valentine's Day gift.**

an easy way to identify her very own diamond, says GIA.

Since the message can be read only under magnification, the wearer can keep it to herself or share it with others. The price of this service is based on the weight of the diamond and the length of the inscription.

For a contemporary twist in customized jewelry, look for charms or pendants with her initials covered in diamond pavé. Or, if she has one of those popular bracelets with add-on links, give her a few new ones with romantic themes.

For women of all ages, the appeal of charms is hard to resist. Hearts, flowers, animals, travel, and hobby themes are just a few of the hundreds of beautifully detailed charms that can be worn on a chain necklace or attached to

a link bracelet. Newest of all are whimsical gold rings with two or three dangling charms of gold or carved gemstones.

If this is the time you plan to “pop the question,” select a diamond ring that reflects her personal style. Jewelers have vast assortments of new designs, from classical solitaires and stylish three-stone rings to unique designer creations. Consider inscribing the inside of the ring with the date of your betrothal or with your initials intertwined. Be sure any diamond you purchase comes with a GIA Diamond Grading Report, regarded internationally as the most respected laboratory authentication for diamonds.

If it's not the time for a proposal, or if you are already married, you can express your love with a fancy shape gemstone, such as a heart. A deep red ruby is the ultimate Valentine's Day look, but many other gemstones are just as beautiful.

Another choice could be the elegant amethyst, the birthstone of February. Even if she's not celebrating her birthday this month, the rich purple tones of amethyst are sure to delight her!

For more information on laser inscription, diamonds, and gemstones, as well as educational opportunities in gems and jewelry, visit GIA at [www.gia.edu](http://www.gia.edu) or call 800-421-7250.