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FEBRUARY 2019

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6
romantic
GETAWAYS

PORT WASHINGTON'S CHARMS

THE BIG DAY: ECO-WEDDINGS, WHIMSICAL FAVORS AND GIFTS

ROMANTIC RIDES FOR *amorous* *adventures*

By David Fluhrer

EVER SINCE THE MARKETERS took over, cars and their wheeled cousins have been hopelessly linked to sex appeal and romance, perhaps even more than a box of truffles or a dozen roses. “To attract men,” comedian Rita Rudner has said, “I wear a perfume called ‘New Car Interior.’” ►

Take a **SPIN**
in these WHEELS
THAT are BUILT for
ROMANCE }

But you don’t necessarily need a Porsche or Ferrari to woo a new love interest or rekindle an old flame. For less than \$40,000, a bunch of less-obvious transportation choices are perfect for a romantic date or an amorous getaway. And most will have your back after the smooching ends and you’re into a Monday morning commute.

Witness the \$35,000 Toyota Camry XSE V6 in Wind Chill Pearl White with Cockpit Red leather to set you on fire. Its 301 horses propel you to 60 mph in a heartbeat, with sharp handling.

“The Camry was designed to achieve strong harmony between refinement and a sensual, athletic image,” says Toyota spokesman Zachary Reed. The XSE can also haul the kiddies to soccer practice.

New this spring and under \$30,000, the sinuous 2019 Mazda3 yields broad, curvy metal that appears to change color and form, depending on the light.





BMW 2 Series Coupe in Melbourne Red Metallic. Photo credit: BMW



Mazda3 hatchback has a curvy form and features premium burgundy leather. Photo credit: Mazda

"The hatchback presents a powerful and seductive look with lasting visual appeal that evokes a sense of exciting experiences to come," says Mazda spokeswoman Tamara Mlynarczyk. Get yours with the available soft burgundy leather.

The Dodge Charger offers American muscle with its bad-boy lines and legendary Hemi V-8. In police trim, it's a steed of choice for brave men and women in blue, and you'll spot it in scads of TV crime shows.

"We see them every day on the road in a different police department livery and it just adds to the 'badass' factor of these cars," says Mark Malmstead, head of Dodge Marketing in the U.S. for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Civilians will like the 370-horsepower R/T in TorRed or B5 Blue for about \$36,000.

Since a 2014 Insure.com national survey suggested men were most attracted to women driving red BMWs, a good fit may be the 230i Coupe in Melbourne Red Metallic for just under \$37,000. And since women were lured to men in black pickups, guys might check out the all-new 2019 Ford Ranger or 2020 Jeep Gladiator, as well as the updated Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra and RAM 1500.

"Although most truck owners are men," notes RAM spokesman Nick Cappa, "80 percent of those purchases are a joint decision with their significant other."

Enticing choices for Long Island's SUV/crossover fanatics include BMW's X2, Infiniti's QX30 and Nissan's Murano. But adventurous young professionals like the staid Subaru Outback for winter getaways.

"I don't think there's a better car for it since you're not taking a Porsche or a Mustang on a road trip, at least in the northeast or in Colorado," says Daniel Ross, general manager of Hicksville's Grand Prix Subaru.

Classic car expert Steve Linden of Smithtown favors a vintage Mustang or Volkswagen to remember a first date or important anniversary. You can even rent an oldie through insurer Hagerty's new DriveShare service. A two-wheeled couple might prefer Harley-Davidson's \$28,000 Road Glide Special in Wicked Red Denim, or even a *romantico* Vespa scooter like the one that drew Audrey Hepburn to Gregory Peck in the 1953 film *Roman Holiday*.

While all these seductive rides require attention to the road, futurists predict self-driving vehicles could someday become rolling bedrooms. But that's a tale for another day. In this moment, you'll want to find exactly the right wheels to attract and excite *ton amour* . . . for Valentine's Day and perhaps happily ever after. *LIL*

David Fluhrer writes Newsday's weekly classic car column, and publishes Inthedriveway.com, an automotive website.

Opposite:
2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon pickup is all-new.

Photo credit: Fiat Chrysler

RAM 1500 is updated for 2019. Photo credit: Fiat Chrysler

Vintage VW can make a first date. Photo credit: Volkswagen

Outback is a favorite for weekend getaways.

Photo credit: Subaru

Dodge Charger R/T in B5 Blue. Photo credit: Fiat Chrysler





Camry XSE in Wind Chill Pearl White. Photo credit: Toyota

