

DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS

WHERE TO SEE LIVE BELLY DANCING WITH YOUR MEAL THIS WINTER



We feel it, too. Saint Valentine and his dreaded 14th. The pressures and expectations, the sheer level of attention your lady will command...

You need a distraction.

Set the mood for your heart-shaped Act of Grandeur with a romantic Turkish dinner at one of these three **Middle Eastern belly-dancing restaurants**, where live dancers on weekends can help ease the tension with hypnotizing, kebab-prickling gyrations.

A La Turka

Sit on oriental rugs and stuffed floor pillows at the intimate, romantically lit A La Turka. **Well-seasoned kebabs and homemade Turkish ravioli** keep you occupied until the place turns into pure pandemonium, with blaring Turkish music and a trio of diamond-encrusted dancers mingle with the crowd, extending a friendly hand so you can join in the dance.

3134 N. Lincoln Ave., Lakeview (773-935-6101)

Alhambra Palace

Five exotic **banquet hall-style rooms** fit for a pharaoh are draped in opulent **Middle Eastern artifacts**. Get the beef shawarma or the cumin-crust salmon in a tangy saffron caper sauce, as you view the dancers with live band on the lavish marble stage below.

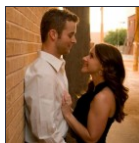
1240 W. Randolph St., West Loop (312-666-9555)

Marrakesh

Order up a bottle of full-flavored French or Moroccan wine (we like Guerroune and Guilhem Rose) in this **laid-back, bar-style space with light red walls and rose tablecloths** set against gray exposed brick. Actually, try both bottles, so you're prepared when an enthusiastic dancer in leopard-print boots **drapes a red feathered scarf around your neck and shakes her stuff at close range**.

941 W. Randolph St., West Loop (312-243-1818)

MORE STORIES



Why Women Prefer a Taller Man



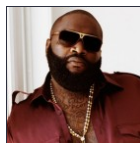
A Made From Scratch Three-Cheese Macaroni



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Your St. Patrick's Day Playbook, Sir



The Poutine Burger Is Here, and It's Glorious



Top 5 Spots to Celebrate Fat Tuesday (Literally)

R E C E N T R U N D O W N S