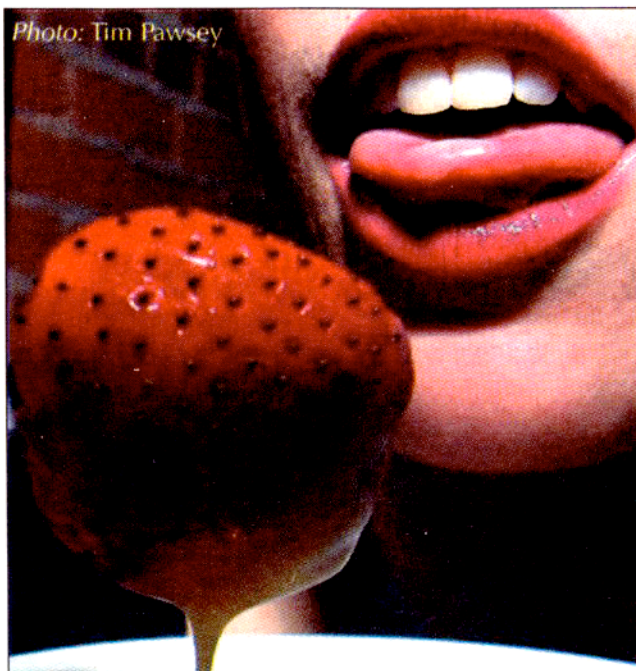
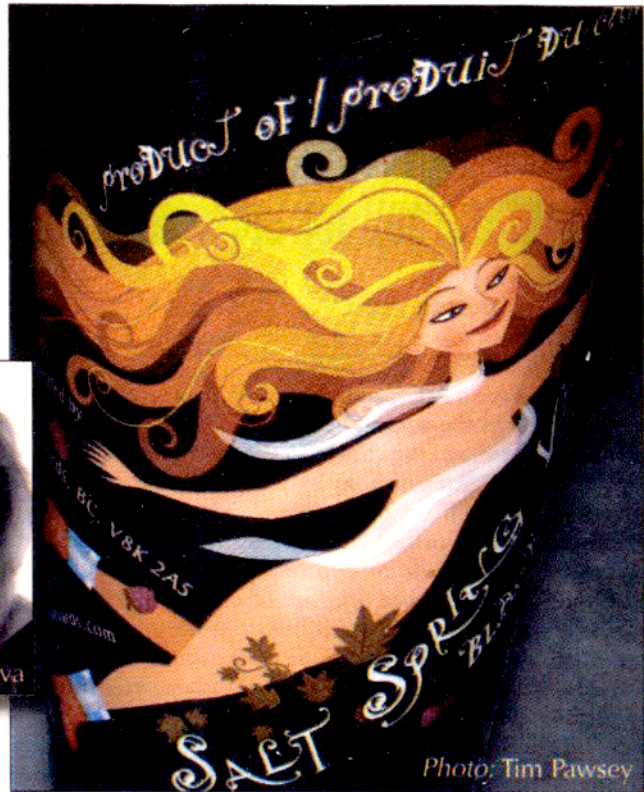


Valentine's dining

By *Tim Pawsey*
Contributing writer

Vancouver Valentines, like lovers themselves, come in every shape and size. Tailor your tryst from our line-up.

Wine Diva Daenna Van Mulligen takes a sexy peek at her fave aphrodisiac foods and comes up with some pretty interesting wines to match. Wine, of course, is an aphrodisiac on its own, says the quirky, casual and humorous WD, who promises to pick the perfect pairings for you and your partner to make this Valentine's truly memorable. (\$40.00 per member; \$47.00 per non-member, includes wines and appetizers). Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:00 pm - **Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club**, 1630 West 15th Ave. (at Fir).



Our own vote for one of the sexiest wines to serve your Valentine goes to **Salt Spring Vineyards** for its luscious Blackberry port style wine. This is a perfect dessert wine (try it with dark chocolate truffles), a pure tasting drop that will redefine the way you think about fruit wines. We also love the cute and whimsical siren label (above). Look for it just in time for Valentine's at better private wine stores.

One of the city's most romantic spots pulls out all the stops as **Le Gavroche** (1616 Alberni St., 604-685-3924) offers a superb five-course, wide-ranging menu with plenty of choice. Pamper your sweetheart with the likes of Dungeness crab with lemon basil aioli, Salt Spring lamb rack with minted gnocchi and roasted garlic jus before you twirl your forks lovingly in a chocolate fondue for two to finish. Cost: \$75.00 per person (excluding taxes and gratuity) but splurge a little more and have Manuel Ferreira choose the right wines to go along. Reservations a must.

On the other hand, if you prefer to indulge your sweetheart with fondue at home, head right on down to **Les Amis du Fromage** (1752 West 2nd. Ave., 604-732-4218), where they will happily lend you a top of the line fondue pot and all the gear when you buy your specially mixed cheeses. Or, if dribbling cheese over potatoes and speck (prosciutto) is