

Santa, baby, enjoy a date night for two

Stir up romance with fire, ice, chocolate and massages

By **KIMBER WESTPHALL**
Special Contributor

Although Dallas winter temps aren't exactly glacial, the holidays are a prime excuse to cuddle up with your better half. From toasty sips to flickering lights and fireside memories, we have holiday date night covered for you and your sweetheart this December.

Sit fireside at the Four Seasons

Here, you can experience the lushness of the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas with live music on Thursday and Saturday evenings on the patio. Although you may have your love to keep you warm, the Four Seasons also has cozy blankets and s'mores that pair ever so deliciously with the bar's cocktail menu. Snuggle up and enjoy the outdoor fireplace and fire pit options.

■ 4150 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. fourseasons.com/dallas.

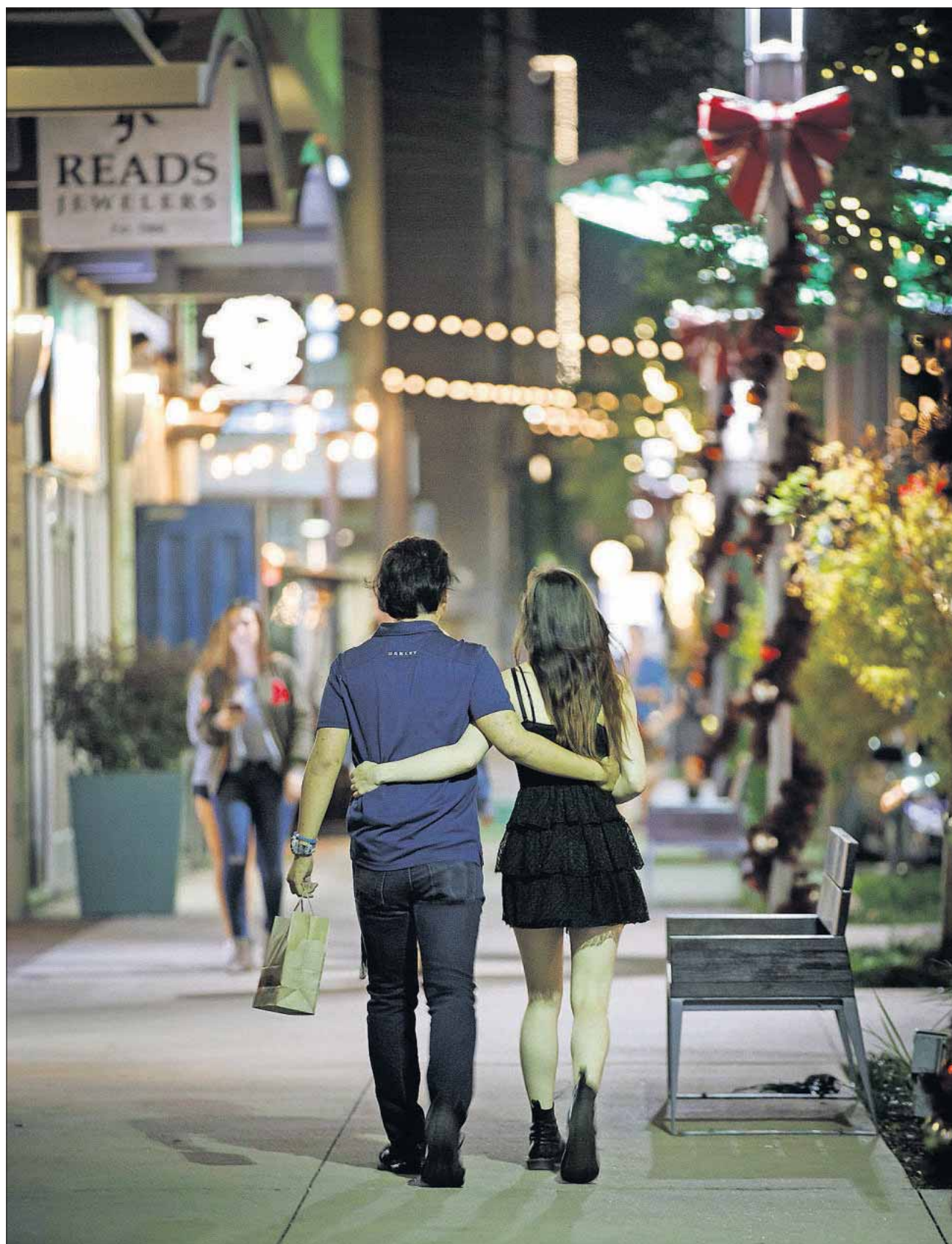
Indulge at Sablon Chocolate Lounge

Sablon Chocolate Lounge takes chocolate obsession seriously. We're talking sugary treats laced with marshmallows, peppermint, hazelnuts, caramel — toppings that will literally leave visions of sugarplums dancing in your head. You may sip, chew and gulp holiday treats every night in December if your sweet tooth can handle it. Igloo Waffles are one of the popular wintry treats: vanilla and chocolate ice cream on a sugar waffle, served with chocolate sauce and chocolate chips. If a heaping plate of waffles is too heavy, opt for a minty shake with two straws. Or try the elegant hot chocolate with edible pearls.

■ 3839 McKinney Ave., Dallas. sablonchocolatelounge.com.

Cheers to holiday beers at the Ginger Man

This is the perfect date night to slow down, enjoy the holiday spirit with your love and sip on some yuletide suds. The Ginger Man is



Smiley N. Pool/Staff Photographer

Crockett Row's Starlight Symphony sets the mood for a romantic stroll.

renowned for its overflowing selection of beers, which includes nearly 10 seasonal offerings, some from local breweries.

■ Locations in Uptown, Southlake, Plano and Fort Worth. thegingerman.com.

Karaoke at the Dallas Arboretum

Most people know that the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is decked out in holiday trimmings this time of year. Aside from its shimmering 500,000 lights, the botanist's delight offers holiday karaoke each Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. until Dec. 24. Perhaps a little friendly competition is in order for this date. Or better yet, a duet? Hot chocolate flows, along with the tunes. Snag a smooch from your honey at the Mistletoe Kissing Booth at Cafe on the Green.

■ 8525 Garland Road, Dallas. dallasarboretum.org/12days.

Feel nostalgic at Bishop Cidercade

For a unique, fun date, head to Bishop Cidercade, an arcade and cider bar in the Design District. Showcasing more than 150 games and 24 ciders on tap, this spot is sure to put you in a holly, jolly mood and infuse nostalgia into the date. Admission is \$10 a day or \$20 per month. Once inside, all games are free. (You pay for the cider; 21 and up.)

■ 2777 Irving Blvd., Dallas. cidercade.com.

Catch a coffee cocktail at Al Biernat's

Al Biernat's is just a stone's throw from Highland Park Village, one of the best places in the area to see Christmas lights. Start with a twist on an Irish coffee: Al's Coffee is mixed with Kahlua, Cointreau, brandy and a fresh dollop of whipped cream. It's a foolproof romantic spot to enjoy a toasty sip, which can include Bailey's Caramel Apple, Sugar Cookie Martini or a Snickertini if the Irish coffee isn't quite right. The dessert menu is plentiful, too.

■ 4217 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas. albiernats.com.

Light up at Starlight Symphony

Stroll hand in hand through the humming Crockett Row at West 7th in Fort Worth while a dazzling music-and-light show illuminates the area every hour on the hour from 6 to 9 p.m. until Dec. 31. This holiday scene is complete with music and horse-drawn carriage rides Fridays and Saturdays. (Bonus: Carriage rides are free.)

■ 2900 Crockett St., Fort Worth.



Jason Janik/Special Contributor

Cliff Young and Amanda Star Cline enjoy drinks by the fire at the Outlaw Taproom in the Four Seasons hotel in Irving, which also offers s'mores that pair ever so deliciously with the bar's cocktail menu.



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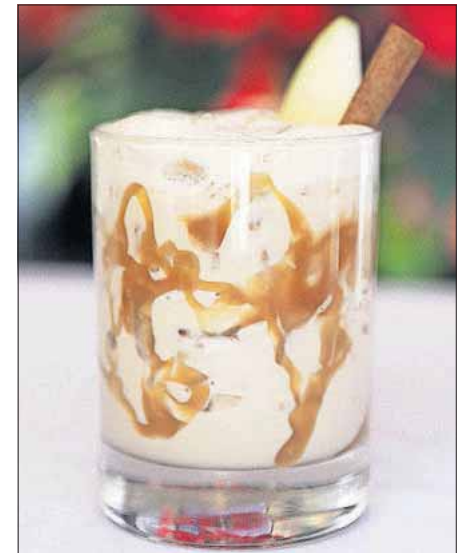
Indulge in Igloo Waffles at Sablon Chocolate Lounge.

crockettrow.com/event/starlight-symphony-2.

Skate hand in hand in Fort Worth

Fort Worth's only outdoor ice-skating rink can be spotted at Panther Island. Coyote Drive-In has been transformed into Panther Island Ice, open seven

days a week until Jan. 15. Skates and access to the rink cost \$12 per person. And what date would be complete without sustenance? The Coyote Drive-In Canteen serves seasonal food and beverages throughout the holiday season. You're sure to work up an appetite whirling round and round the rink.



David Woo/Staff Photographer

Slip off to Al Biernat's for a Baileys Caramel Apple or other holiday spirits.

■ 223 NE Fourth St., Fort Worth. pantherislandice.com.

Cuddle up at a Dallas Stars game

Ice-skating is a treasured holiday pastime, but there's no trace of *real* frozen ponds in Dallas-Fort Worth to glide, twirl and skate on. If you'd rather watch somebody else do the skating, go to a Dallas Stars game. Regardless of the temperature outside, American Airlines Center is perpetually chilly when the ice is down and the pucks come out. It's the perfect opportunity to wear your winter accessories.

■ The Stars play at AAC, 2500 Victory Ave., Dallas. Check nhl.com/stars/schedule for upcoming games.

Splurge at the Ritz-Carlton in Dallas

Bundle up in cozy robes with your date at the Ritz-Carlton spa and choose from several cheeky holiday-themed treatments you can enjoy together. The Toasty Marshmallow Massage drizzles your skin with a creamy rich melt of emollient shea, cocoa and mango butters. If you and your date don't have ticklish feet, you can enjoy the Mint Chocolate Mistle-Toe pedicure. This includes your legs being painted with a chocolate mask with minty shea butter. For a supremely decadent evening, go for the Champagne Mousse Massage, available only Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The rest are available now through Dec. 31.

■ 2121 McKinney Ave., Dallas. ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/dallas/spa.

Kimber Westphall is a Dallas freelance writer.