

May Newsletter



"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today."

– Will Rogers

Give Your Mom an Unforgettable Mother's Day with These Creative Ideas

Source: thespruce.com

No matter your age, your mom is probably one of the most beloved and influential women in your life—but when Mother's Day rolls around each May, it can be challenging to find the perfect gift for her. After all, there are only so many pieces of jewelry and bottles of perfume that you can buy over the years. If you are starting to think slightly outside the box when it comes to Mother's Day gifts, here are a few creative ideas that will make the day special:

- Compile a list of your favorite memories of your mom, or the important life lessons that she's taught you. Take some time to reflect and dig as far back in your memory as you can, and list out some of the most memorable moments in your life together. Your mom will surely be touched by the reminder of how she has shaped your life and how much she has meant to you over the years.
- Create a slide show or video of your memories. If you are more of a visual person, memorialize the happy times you've spent together in a slide show or video that will bring your mom joy whenever she watches it.
- Help grow her garden. Whether your mom is an experienced gardener or is just testing out her green thumb, plants of any type will add beauty to her home. And flowers aren't the only option—consider purchasing house plants, herbs, and low-maintenance edible plants, like tomatoes or arugula. Label the plant and provide instructions on how to care for it so that your mom will hopefully enjoy it for months, or even years, to come.
- Prepare a full-course meal. While taking your mom out for a traditional Mother's Day brunch is always nice, treating her to a formal home-cooked meal is sure to impress her. Make the occasion feel special by setting the table and serving an appetizer or soup/salad course, an entree, a dessert, and beverages with your mom's favorite items.
- Clean her house. Whether you do the tidying yourself or buy a gift card for a cleaning service, your mom will probably love a break from cleaning. Another idea is to take her car for a thorough wash and detailing!
- Play games together. Sometimes, the best gift is simply taking the time to talk, laugh, and relax with your mom. Cards and board games can serve as a great bonding experience, offering the perfect chance for everyone in your family to unleash their inner child and have some fun together. Ask your mom about her favorite games and gather your loved ones for a lighthearted Mother's Day tournament.

Cherries Poached in Red Wine with Mascarpone Cream

Source: foodandwine.com

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups red wine
- 1 cup sugar
- 11-by-3-inch strip orange zest
- 2 pounds sweet cherries, halved and pitted
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese
- 2 1/2 tablespoons honey

Directions:

- In a medium stainless-steel saucepan, combine the wine, sugar, and orange zest. Bring to a simmer over moderately high heat. Add the cherries and bring back to a simmer. Reduce the heat and simmer, partially covered, until the cherries are just tender, about 5 minutes. Pour into a glass or stainless-steel bowl so the cherries don't overcook.
- In a small bowl, combine the mascarpone with the honey. Remove the strip of orange zest from the cherries. Serve the warm cherries and syrup in bowls or stemmed glasses, topped with a large dollop of the mascarpone cream.

How Buyers Can Navigate Today's Competitive Real Estate Market

Source: nerdwallet.com, forbes.com

Fueled by record-low mortgage rates, surging buyer demand, and low inventory, there's no denying that today's real estate market in most places can be characterized as a strong seller's market. If you are looking to buy a home, the fierce competition and soaring prices can be discouraging—but with some strategic planning, purchasing the home of your dreams is still possible today. Here are a few tips:

- Have a clear idea of your "non-negotiables"—as well as where you are willing to compromise. For example, develop a realistic concept of what you can afford to spend, how large your new home needs to be, the type of area you'd be willing to live in, and how much money you'll have leftover to make any improvements necessary. Being honest with yourself and getting clear on the wishlist for your dream home will make it easier to move swiftly—and hopefully, beat out the competition—when you find something that meets your qualifications.
- Get pre-approved for a mortgage. In a seller's market as hot as the current one, a mortgage pre-approval is virtually a must-have for buyers. Not only can a pre-approval help give you a realistic understanding of your price range, but it will show sellers that you are serious and qualified—which means it is less likely that the deal could fall through if they accept your offer.
- Get a pre-inspection. When the market is less competitive, it's common for buyers to include contingencies in their offers based on problems revealed by the inspection. In today's market, however, sellers are unlikely to agree to fix minor issues, so inspection contingencies may not be a realistic option. Getting an inspection before you make an offer will help steer you away from homes that have significant problems, and can expedite the closing process if you decide to go through with the offer.



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

