

BIG, bold and bizarre



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If you like the parchment idea then take her to a gourmet lunch in a chateau followed by a romantic horse and carriage ride through the grounds during which you will come across a sword battle between two highwaymen and a passing prince who, having defeated the dastardly evil-doers will present your beloved with a parchment proposal.

Each of ApoteoSurprises experiences involves the appearance of an exceptional vehicle at your hotel which takes you the destination of your choice incorporating the surprise declaration.

One of the most surprising is the circus declaration in which you are picked up from your hotel in a Ford Mustang and taken to the circus.

You watch the performance until after the interval when your beloved is taken into the ring and made the target in a knife-throwing act.

She is blindfolded and knives thud on each side of her head.

When the blindfold is removed, if she is in any state to notice, she will find that the knives have impaled two large red hearts on either side of her head, and on them is the declaration of love or proposal of marriage.

She then rejoins you and watches the rest of the show, consoled by a basket of rose petals with a bottle of champagne and two cuddly toys.

I reckon you'd have to know your intended pretty well before you outlaid 1599 euro (\$2650.65) on this little number.

Although that's a bargain compared with, for instance, 2990 euro (\$4956.50) for the balloon surprise. It begins when you are collected from your hotel in an elegant Citroën Trac-tion.

The blurb goes: "You'll settle down on the cosy back seat and head off on a lively refined tour across the French capital. After having travelled down Paris's most remarkable streets, you'll leave the city and head for the green French department of Essonne and its lakeside scenery. . . When you reach the incredibly majestic Juine Valley, the flowered entry to a luxurious es-

tate will come into view. Your vehicle will turn into a driveway and you'll cruise alongside a magnificent row of 300-year-old linden trees which will form an incredible pointed archway above your heads. As you get out of your vehicle, you'll be welcomed by the owner."

You then have an amazing gourmet lunch, followed by a stroll through the gardens . . . "Out of the blue, at the bend of a path something will suddenly appear before your eyes — a giant bottle of champagne that is over 11m in height! On the enormous label your dumbfounded sweetheart will discover your wonderful declaration of love! A Grand Cru! When the cork pops, hundreds of coloured balloons will rise up out of the bottleneck and float off towards the heavens, as if they were champagne bubbles released in honour of your love!"

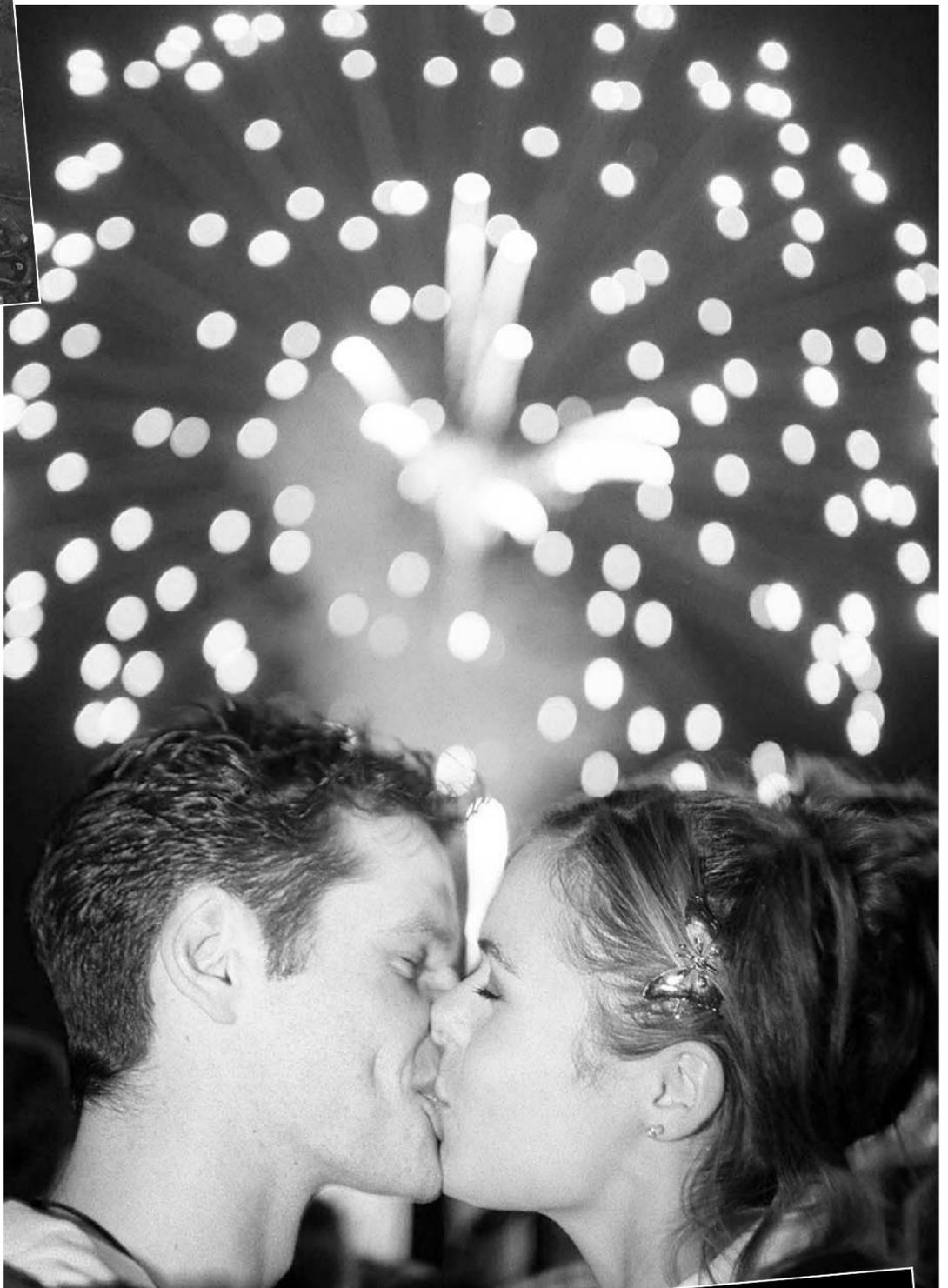
The experience lasts, on average, for five hours, including transport, and if it rains, the chauffeur will offer you an umbrella. So that's a relief.

Everything you can imagine is here for you to choose from, and many you could never have thought of.

There's a skychow which ends up writing your message in the sky, a Starsky and Hutch car chase which finishes up with a car going past you on two wheels with your message of love painted on the undercarriage or you can have 1000 roses drop onto your beloved's head while you're dining on an exclusive private yacht on the Seine.

Or you could be dining at a very modern restaurant when a cybernetic-looking man appears, equipped with a flat screen TV floating above his head. Your sweetheart will watch in amazement as the first photograph of the two of you appears on the screen, followed by an entire slideshow of images taken during some of the most memorable moments in your relationship . . . right up until your incredible declaration of love blazes onto the screen! This little extravaganza is a snip at just 2990 euro (\$4956).

Given what's available, it makes an advertisement in the *Bully* look just a tiny bit insignificant.



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