

TOP Dating Tips

It's hunting season. Deer? No, dear little models. While their heads aren't mounted over the mantle, they are generally stuffed --into something skimpy and black--and paraded around like trophies.

Model hunting--the sport is growing so fast that it's supporting packs of prolific writers with model dating how-to articles. Pretty EASY prey?...How to Play Hardball with Men Who *Must* Date Models:

1. Free dinners, drinks, and gifts do not buy love. You don't owe him a thing. Chow, swig, enjoy, then split.
2. Never believe the big photog/scout/agent line. Just say, with a flip of your hair and look of amazement, "Really? WOW!" Disappear when the Crystal runs dry.
3. When he pulls out his cell phone, look impressed and ask if you can call your roommate. Catch up with all your friends who live on other continents.
4. If you meet him milling around at a casting oozing charm and acting like every girl there is a near and dear friend, BEWARE! Go to the party at his mansion, but take a dozen buddies--all guys--and take off as soon as you have bulldozed the buffet and emptied the liquor cabinet.
5. Spend dinner batting your eyelashes and discussing how sexually frustrated you are. Finish off that last sip of wine, let out a sexy sigh, and say, "What a shame I'm in the middle of a herpes flare-up."
6. If he persuades you to join him in the bathroom to partake in his little white goody bag, snatch his whole stash, lock yourself in a stall, flush it all, come out wiping your nose, and with a wide grin say, "Thanks that was fab. Do you have any more?" If he says yes, repeat, until he runs out. If he says no, scowl like a supermodel who has gotten up for less than \$10,000 and stomp out of the restaurant.
7. Tell him he's wonderful; you want to move in with him and be his model mistress, sex slave, and maid. Go on a shopping spree to celebrate your new-found love. Pack your new designer wardrobe into your new designer luggage, and catch the next flight to a new market.
8. Tell him you would love to join him on a ten day Caribbean cruise. As the ship pulls away, throw him the herpes line.
9. Accept the plane ticket and invitation to Europe. Bring your boyfriend.
10. Marry him. Take half.

DEAR JILL

Paris or Bust...

Dear Jill,

I want to model in Europe this summer, but I can't decide where to go. Do you have any suggestions?

**Nancy Williams
Atlanta, GA**

Dear Antsy Nancy,

There are two approaches to planning your European modeling itinerary: a. you can drive yourself into a furrowed-brow frenzy, analyzing each market, quizzing every friend and agent, and attempting to reconcile all the conflicting advice into some kind of sure-fire plan, or, b. you can tape a map of Europe on your wall, blind-fold yourself, and pinpoint a few cities with darts or sharp cooking utensils. Neither plan has been shown to yield superior results.

Okay, seriously, while predicting your success in any given market may be a job for Psychic Skolie (Horoscopes, p.87), I'll offer a few pointers to send you in the right direction. Ideally your first stop should be in a place where an agency will front your airfare and accommodations. Regardless of the market, this is your ticket to ride on the Euro tour and you'll be with an agency which clearly has confidence in your potential (and will give that extra push, as their money is at stake!). If no offers come in for airfare, don't fret, but do try to assess each agency's enthusiasm. Your mother agency should make the arrangements, insuring that your new agency is expecting you and will assist you with a ride, or at least directions from the airport, and lodging. Only the most fearless devotees of just winging it should fly in the face of practical planning. On my first trip to Europe I flew to Munich on a one way ticket, not sure of an agency or a place to stay, and presented my Denver-based book with the earnest eyes of a puppy dog in a pet store window. Luckily the head booker bought it; I may have been serving rather than slamming beer at Oktoberfest that week (or sleeping on a park bench, as Ryan was in Milan!).

This brings me to another point. Follow the festivities, such as Oktoberfest in Munich. You will never see such a show of reckless abandon and drunken jubilation, especially in Germany. Indulge in the culture and good times; even if your chart is blank, your trip should not leave you empty! Think of yourself as an adventurous back-packer, playing dress-up on the side. If the cash and tear sheets come, great, but I would still tell all those nosy neighbors on the train that you're just bumming around Europe for a while (they might want an autograph, or

three hours of your time explaining the intricacies of the high fashion world, or a hot date!).

So, more specifically, leave Munich for August (other European markets pretty much shut down in August, plus it's prime time for the biergartens). If all goes well, that German catalog cash will keep coming until Oktoberfest (which starts in late September, by which time you will have built up your bier tolerance) and perhaps for many 'fests to come. If you stay on, do the rounds in Zurich and Vienna as well (each an easy four-hour train ride away).

Going back to July...hmmm....Try Milan; it's the men's shows, so the city is very *good looking*. Of course it will be unbearably hot and you will be in a perpetual state of sticky irritation, which is bad when you're in the jungle, but good when you are in Viet-Milan. Why? War stories. You always want to leave Milan with vivid, hellish memories, which you can embellish while sitting at castings in other cities with other models trading war stories and trying to win the worst experience in Milan contest. The narrators of Italian men/mugging/robbery/sardine-packed model apartment stories who have the added perspiration inspiration--the solid layer of gritty, mid-summer sweat--hold a sure advantage.

In June you will be wherever the best freeloader option landed you. Try Madrid for a soft landing--cheap, fun, not too competitive. Watch out for those free dinners and drinks or you won't *fit* into Milan, and make sure you nudge your booker out of perma-siesta or you may never get any castings. Athens is another option--fast turn-around on tear sheets, loads of commercials, and unforgettable islands. London is booming too, so *they* say. Ask them, if you can figure out who *they* are. Good luck! Call me when you get back; we'll compare war stories.

Jill

