Looking for Cupid this Valentine’s Day? Waiters Put Their Love Lives on the Line to Serve up Romance

- Waiters, bar staff, concierges put Valentine’s Day customers’ happiness before their own
- 1 in 4 has helped a customer pop the question, according to a new survey
- But just as many end up rowing with loved ones about working on February 14
- 1 in 3 has tried dodging Valentine shift – some even quitting their job
- In appreciation, Ford surprises a few unsung heroes with a dream date

COLOGNE, Germany, Feb. 14, 2017 – 1 in 4 waiters acting as modern day cupids, carrying trays instead of bows, have helped customers pop the question. But waiters usually miss out on Valentine’s Day dates themselves – and just as many row with partners about work.

Some even quit their jobs rather than miss spending the most romantic night of the year with their loved one, according to a new pan-European survey of waiters, concierges, and bar staff, commissioned by Ford. 1 in 3 try to get out of working, with 1 in 10 having pulled a sickie, and others faking an emergency or pretending their car has broken down.

Now Ford has turned the tables on those hidden cupids who go further for their customers. We surprised a lucky few with a very special romantic meal.

“On Valentine dates couples only have eyes for each other. But how their evening goes depends in no small part on those who are sacrificing their own nights out to do a great job,” said Greg Dawson, vice president Communications and Public Affairs, Ford of Europe. “They are the true heroes of Valentine’s Day – and what better way to recognise their efforts than to make them the centre of attention.”

London waitress Kelsie Jamieson, 24, has already helped arrange two proposals at work, but has never experienced a Valentine’s Day date. She was surprised with a romantic evening with her fiancé Nick Epstein, 32 – who previously proposed to her with a Haribo ring.

For the many who soldier on there is an upside. Two-thirds polled said customers were friendlier than usual on Valentine’s Day and most thought diners were also more generous.

As for the unlucky diners who turn up for a Valentine’s date alone? 1 in 5 waiters has helped cheer them up.