

The Pros

Just because you're single doesn't mean you have to do it alone. Advice from the masters on dating, dumping and everything in between **By Stéphanie Verge**



DAN COUVRETTE
CEO AND PUBLISHER,
Divorce Magazine

"I'm definitely not encouraging people to get divorced. I encourage people to get help. Talk to your rabbi, your priest, your parents or your therapist; read books, practice meditation, whatever it takes. Unfortunately, when someone has made the decision to divorce, it's my experience that it's easier to replace the fridge than to fix the motor. That is the culture in which we live."



TRAVIS HARTLEY
PRESIDENT, MEET MARKET ADVENTURES,
a singles' tour and travel company

"People can be anybody behind a computer, but if you click with somebody you're going to have to be yourself. So you might as well start off being honest. And get out there and do stuff. If you're sitting home on a Saturday night watching *Bridget Jones's Diary*, you're not going to have that opportunity. Get involved in social groups and just meet as many people as you can. It's all about numbers."



SHELLY PURDY
DESIGNER OF ACHIEVEMENT RINGS,
Shelly Purdy Studio

"I used to have women coming to my store saying 'When I find a man, I'm going to bring him here and get that ring.' That's not right: you shouldn't have to rope a spouse to have something beautiful. These are successful women. So I decided to make these rings that are as lovely as a wedding band but mean something else, something that these women feel they deserve."



TORY HOWAT
FOUNDER OF EQUAL CHEMISTRY,
a matchmaking service for A-types

"I hand-pick people who are serious about fitness and work. Although my service sounds superficial and snotty, it's not. I'm looking for people with similar qualities, not clones. My clients aren't vain; they're not egotistical. When I'm interviewing potential clients, I weed out those types. I get the vibe and sometimes it's a fine line between being arrogant and being egotistical."



JIM RITCHIE
SENIOR VP, SALES AND MARKETING,
condo giant Tridel

"The security systems in our buildings go beyond just having a concierge at the front desk. There are alarms in each of the suites. We paint the garages bright white and they are well lit. The vestibules that come in from the garages are glass; they can be watched by the concierge via camera. There are panic buttons. These are all important when you're catering to single women."



GEORGINA CARSON
FAMILY LAW LAWYER,
MacDonald & Partners, LLP

"Get the facts straight, and tell your lawyer everything. It drives me crazy when a client comes in and tells me that his former spouse is exceedingly exercised and being totally unreasonable, but neglects to mention that he's just moved in with a stripper. I don't want to end up hearing about it from the other lawyer! You have to tell your lawyer absolutely everything."