



_ILLUSTRATION: COURTESY OF TORONTO STAR



MON SEP 23, 2013

ADVICE

Can astrology enhance life in the GTA?

We consulted four star-reading experts to see if Torontonians can forge a stronger connection between their zodiac signs and their postal codes.

BY: KIM HUGHES

When it comes to astrology, the world is divided between believers and non-believers. Yet even skeptics will allow that character quirks associated with zodiac signs often ring true; that Taurus is stubborn, for instance, or Cancers are moody. If the moon can affect the tides, surely the various planets in our solar system exert some kind of force over us. At least, that's what astrologers from China to Greece to Mexico have been preaching since Dionysus wore short pants.

But what if we could harness the wisdom of the stars to enhance life right here in the GTA? Are some neighbourhoods better suited to Virgo than Gemini? Is there a hotspot guaranteed to get you laid by your Scorpio date? The possibilities are endless.

We consulted four of the city's top astrologers—Robin Armstrong, Phil Booth, Hassan Jaffer, and Julie Simmons—who, between them, boast thousands of clients worldwide and more than 100-plus years of star-gazing experience—for tips on how best to navigate the city based on your zodiac sign. And while all agree that experiences vary for each gender within the signs—and that a complete natal chart yields more precise information than a general Sun-sign round-up—the concept at work here is legit. Says Simmons, “Sun signs are the heart of a person and your heart's desire. So, when you think about something, like falling in love or finding the perfect place to live, your Sun sign *should* be something you take into account because you want to be able to express yourself in that environment.”

The Fire signs: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

Overview: “The Fire signs want action and fun; they don't want to be bored. They want to go somewhere they don't have to sit still, where there is excitement. They like energy and enthusiasm, so a lecture wouldn't be great for a Fire sign. They'd want to walk out.”—*Armstrong*

Live here: “Fire signs should live by the water because they tend to be more active and interested in sports. So, maybe in the Beaches or anywhere there is access to nature they can put

themselves up against.”—*Simmons*

Word of warning: “Fire signs should be careful about spending too much money, because they need to express themselves. And they should avoid places where they feel cooped up. That’s also true of Air signs. They need freedom.”—*Simmons*

Aries essentials:

“Anything with action or adventure,” advises Jaffer on what makes a great date for an Aries. “Maybe a boat cruise or salsa dancing.”

“Aries love a race and action,” adds Booth. “And they rule knives and fires with that Mars connection. So anywhere there are Japanese restaurants or sushi restaurants, where there’s lots of knives—like Yorkville around Bellair. Plus: gyms, workout centres, boxing gyms—places where pugilistic Aries get to vent their martial energy. Also, Aries is an athletic sign, so living in the Beaches would work for them... where people are jogging.”

Leo essentials:

Date-wise, Jaffer suggests “something exclusive or VIP” for the Leo. “And not cheap. Even if it’s not an exquisite place, it should serve really wholesome food.” Adds Booth, “Fire signs like action, so things like horse racing, gambling or casinos” will make your Leo date purr. As for preferred ’hoods, Booth says, “Anything attached to performing arts or deep creativity... maybe Queen West or Parkdale, where lots of arts are happening.”

Sagittarius essentials:

Anyone romancing Centaurs would do well to remember that “a sense of adventure has to be there. Pleasure Valley for a horse ride could be good,” Jaffer, himself a Sagittarian, suggests. “Elements of foreign culture or a foreign land or travel. It’s not just about eating Moroccan food, for example, but the philosophical side is very important to Sag as well.”

As for choice neighbourhoods, Booth advises: “Think about Avenue Road and the University of Toronto lands, and you start thinking about the ninth house or Sagittarius. That sign has to do with education and law, campuses and parliament buildings; it’s ruled by Jupiter and the Greek god Zeus.”

The Earth signs: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn

Overview: “They want something that is cultured, but comfortable and practical. Something healthy yet indulgent. As long as there’s beauty and good things to eat, Earth—and Water signs—will be satisfied.”—*Armstrong*

Live here: “Earth signs would be happier living near a ravine or gardens. Earth signs are literally earthy, so they want something that smells okay. So the Beaches might *not* be OK. They need to be someplace where their senses are rewarded.”—*Simmons (who’s a Sun sign Taurus, so take note)*

Word of warning: “Earth signs should be careful about looking too much for a deal, or being too frugal. And they should avoid places that are ugly. I mean, no one wants to live somewhere ugly, but if an Earth sign’s senses are offended, well... they should be careful.” —*Simmons*

Taurus essentials:

“It’s a sensual sign,” says Booth, with a mind to dating the Bull. “I would think Little Italy and along College Street would play to Taurus’ love of beauty. And food. And the beauty of food. Plus, it’s earthy and Italians are immersed in beauty, which appeals so much to Taurus.”

“Taurus loves good food,” Jaffer concurs, “but they also like history, and anything with long-term stability, so maybe a place that has been around for 20 years.”

Virgo essentials:

“Health and nutrition and a need for perfection are very important for Virgo,” says Jaffer. “They also love gadgets that help you save time and make you more efficient. Organic places would be good, or anything to do with homeopathy or naturopathy.”

“You know Carrot Common?” Booth asks. “That [area] would be good for Virgo and Pisces—[it

represents] health, nutrition, food, and alternative therapies. Virgo is associated with health.”

Capricorn essentials:

Ideal neighbourhood? “Yorkville, for sure,” says Booth. “Also, Bay Street, because Capricorn is kind of the pinnacle of material well-being. It’s the 10th house and all about ‘How does the world see us?’ And presenting a good image. Corporations are also tied to Capricorn. Rosedale has Capricorn overtones because it has big houses, it’s wealthy, and focussed on appearances.”

Tips for daters? “Capricorn is understated,” says Jaffer. “So something exclusive but with a certain corporate aspect about it. A trade fair offers some purpose or a goal being obtained.”

The Air signs: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius

Overview: “Air needs something mentally stimulating—lots of communication with people talking, being social, and exchanging ideas. So [go with Air signs to] clubs, internet cafes, or anywhere they might see someone they know.”—*Armstrong (a Sun sign Libra)*

Live here: “Air signs should live where there is strong community, or they could live in highrises where they could get a good view. Having vistas would keep them from feeling cooped up.”—*Simmons*

Word of warning: “Air signs should be careful about choosing where to live, because they read an article or they heard it was good but they didn’t check it out enough. Air signs must be careful of gossip.”—*Simmons*

Gemini essentials:

Sexual orientation notwithstanding, Booth suggests the gay village at Church and Wellesley is a good place to spot—or entertain—the Twins. “It’s ruled by Mercury and the Greek god Hermes, who is definitely on the edge. Also, Koreatown on that stretch of Bloor between Christie and Bathurst. Or Chinatown. Any marketplace with buying-and-selling qualities.”

And if a second date with a Gemini is forthcoming? “Anything to do with communication,” Jaffer says. “Go to a really nice book store, for example, and you could end up talking all night. Geminis like to be intellectually stimulated. That’s very important.”

Libra essentials:

Romancing the only sign in the zodiac represented by an inanimate object needn’t be scary, Jaffer insists. Go for “anything to do with beauty. In Yorkville, for example, you have beautiful stores but also fashion and clothing and architecture and interior design. Pay attention to colour coordination. Plus, any activity requiring a partner.” Wink-nudge.

Adds Booth, you can take your Libra “almost anywhere really. Church Street, because it’s kind of arty, which attracts Libras. But anywhere there is beauty and a strong sense of aesthetics: Bay Street, and Bloor with shops with beautiful things. Yorkville, where all the hairdressers are.”

Aquarius essentials:

“Aquarius is about being friendly and sociability, so [take them to] any marketplace, like Kensington Market or St. Lawrence Market,” says Booth, himself an Aquarius. “Anywhere there are fountains or meeting places. And water. Aquarius, though an Air sign, is signified by the Water Bearer, so any water conjures Aquarius in my mind.”

Jaffer agrees. “But,” he adds, “with Aquarius, you can’t really show your passion too much. There is a cool and aloof aspect but also a visionary/technology [aspect]. Anywhere there is new technology, futuristic aspects, and also a humanitarian element.”

The Water signs: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

Overview: “They are moody and emotional, so you need some place that has mood or soul or feeling to it. Something that could stimulate memories. In some ways, Water signs are higher maintenance, but they are also more sympathetic. When it’s good, it’s really good. And it’s sensuous.”—*Armstrong*

Live here: “Water signs want to live where they feel safe, near their families but also in

environments that feel cozy, safe, and secure. Secure is the word. Water can best express themselves when they feel secure.”—*Simmons*

Word of warning: “Water signs should avoid making themselves too small. They’re like an octopus that will pull in all their legs and retreat into a can or hide under a shell. Water people need to be sure they don’t think a place is going to be secure and it turns out instead to be too small and limiting.”—*Simmons*

Cancer essentials:

“For Cancer, emotional security is important,” says Jaffer on the subject of dating. “So, an Italian neighbourhood, for example, where something homemade is served and the place is run by a family. That could extend to a bed-and-breakfast, where there is an emotional and family element there.”

Shacking up with a Crab? Need a neighbourhood tip? “This is an interesting one,” says Booth. “Rosedale to some degree with respect to nesting and domesticity. Beaches, too, which is kind of a family area. Or it is now. There remains a kind of cottage-y, communal feel. Although, it’s also athletic, with people jogging down the boardwalk, which speaks to Sagittarius.” Sadly, Sag and Cancer are otherwise incompatible. Trust me on this one.

Scorpio essentials:

Deep breath. Okay, here we go: “Scorpio rules the eighth house of investments: other people’s money, stock markets, banking, mortgages, inheritances, etcetera,” says Booth. “The financial-market side of Bay Street down around King—the TSX and big banks—is strongly Scorpio. The Distillery area is interesting. Today, it is a creative, fun area for the arts-and-café culture. I’m not sure it was that in the past. I get a Scorpio feel from that area. I wonder if it has any military history. Scorpio rules the military and war. Russell Crowe’s 2005 movie *Cinderella Man* picked up on that underworld energy and a lot of it was filmed in the Distillery.”

Yeah whatever—just don’t fall in love with the damn sign. Anything else? “I would suggest taking them out in the nighttime,” Jaffer laughs. “Maybe something with lots of black or leather... or maybe the mafia hangs out there. Something with an exotic element about it.” (Figures...)

Pisces essentials:

House-shopping? “Riverdale,” says Booth. “That would be good for Virgo and Pisces—health, nutrition, food, and alternative therapies. Pisces has to do with psychotherapy and that area is crawling with them. Pisces: caring, nurturing, giving up your own needs, spirituality, unity with the cosmos.”

With Pisces, says Jaffer, you can’t go wrong with “anything near the lake, the water, Niagara Falls. Or a seductive spot, like The Sultan’s Tent.”


Final words

Possibly more than selecting a specific neighbourhood, Armstrong insists that “astrology is very useful in establishing a good time to buy a house. You could divide a city into 12 signs, but it’s really subjective. Plus, it’s what you can afford and being lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. It’s like a salad dressing and categories are all shook up. We don’t see oils and vinegars separately; it’s a mix.”

Adds Simmons: “I am sure there are Water signs that could live in the Beach and Air signs who need a garden. But following your Sun signs helps to understand what you’re drawn to in terms of finding your ideal place to live.”

TAGS *Astrology, Hassan Jaffer, Julie Simmons, Phil Booth, Robin Armstrong*

post a comment 

Latest 

Anonymous

Is this a joke?

 1  0

8:41 am on October 1, 2013

 Reply  Report

Tara Greene

As another professional Astrologer in Toronto, there are many of us in this supposedly Sagittarian city. This is a great article by experienced professionals. It's a fun idea. Perhaps the article was edited down for lack of space, I don't agree with all of these respected Astrologers on their interpretations though.

Toronto is a city of areas though so this is a good analogy to the 12 signs of the Zodiac.

Aquarius and Gemini definitely love shiny tall downtown core condos.

Scorpios in "dark energy neighbourhoods" Lansdowne and Bloor,

Taurus and Virgo love Gardens-Edward Gardens, ravines,

Capricorn- Rosedale, old money, Bay Street condo's downtown.

Aries- fast paced nabes.

Sagittarius- any ethnic oriented neighbourhood, Little India, Greektown, Little Korea, Roncesvalles near the Metro Zoo, etc.

Cancer- must live near water or in sight of it. The Beaches most definitely.

Leo- Yorkville, The Bridal Path, Forest Hill-

Libra- Yorkville, High Park, Casa Loma, artsy neighbourhoods, good taste

PISCES- High Park, the Beaches, on waterfront, Queen West

my 2 cents- see my website <http://www.taratarot.com>

 2  0

12:14 am on September 26, 2013

 Reply  Report

Albin

I left the Carrot Common Danforth for lack of sex – Virgos are about wanting more of that.

Recently, I've been more taken with the Chinese Zodiac illustrated by the friendly Ai Wei Wei sculptures at City Hall. I'm a Tiger, but there's more to it on closer research. Given the premise of this article, where do the Rats live?

 1  0

5:25 pm on September 23, 2013

 Reply  Report