

TABLE FOR EIGHT

THE RELATIONSHIPS GAME • THE FOLLOW-UP DATE



GREEK EXPECTATIONS



Chops away ... Andrew Ward and Melissa Grounds. Photo: Fiona Morris

Was this week's couple ready to break plates or speaking different languages? **Brooke Hemphill** found out.

It was tough picking pairs from the last round of Table for Eight, so when Andrew Ward selected Melissa Grounds no one was more surprised than Cupid.

Melissa, 24, had been a popular choice with the lads. When told this she replies, with a laugh, "I'm an awesome chick." She chose Andrew, 31, and the pair was happy to head out on a date.

Before the day had even begun, Melissa had his number. So much for playing hard to get. ("We'd been emailing during the week," Andrew tells Cupid.)

They met in Paddington to join Maria Benardis's Greek cooking class (www.greekalicious.com.au). "It reminded me of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*," Melissa quips. Andrew had his Italian confused with his Greek - he says the class made him think of "the most stolen book" from Australian schools, *Looking for Alibrandi*.

The class was a hit with our couple and the handful of people in their group. "One girl was on her fourth class," Melissa says.

They assisted as Maria made a veritable feast including Greek dips, dolmades, salads and roast vegetables. The *piece de resistance* was dessert: baked apples with almonds and cinnamon. The combination of honey, nutmeg and cinnamon is



HOW IT WORKS

Table for Eight is Radar's relationships game. Each month, four guys and four girls meet at Mint Bar and Dining. Afterwards, each ranks members of the opposite sex and the "matches" are sent on a date including dinner at Mint. Runners-up will roll the dice at Casino Nights, May 31, courtesy of www.fastimpressions.com.au.



Email Cupid at brooke.jennine@gmail.com to volunteer.

something of an aphrodisiac, apparently. "There's a whole other class on that," Andrew says.

Once the food was ready, the group sat down to sample their handiwork. "I was definitely stuffed," Melissa says. "There was so much garlic and onion, which is not so good for a date." The wine was flowing and the food was going but so was Melissa. "She had something else to do in the afternoon," Andrew says.

The pair was to meet up for dinner at Mint Bar and Dining that evening but there was a spanner in the works. Andrew had tonsillitis. "It's a shame," Melissa laments. "I was kind of looking forward to dinner." Andrew suggested they postpone the meal but Melissa explained she was pretty busy for the next few weeks. Andrew took this as a "bit of a sign".

So, stuffed with Greek goodness, the pair went their separate ways. Cupid wondered if she should have sent them to the aphrodisiac class. She also wondered if they would ever meet again.

"I think you know we're not that interested in each other," Andrew says. If that was the case, why had they chosen one another in the first place? "Um, Andrew's a really nice guy but he's not my type," Melissa offers. "I think I'm too young for him."

Andrew is more philosophical about the situation. "Sometimes you don't necessarily click." Still, he enjoyed the cookery class and will "probably send her an email".

After the previous week's couple, who went the whole nine yards - or nine hours, to be precise - was Cupid asking a little much to think Andrew and Melissa were destined for love? There were so many reasons why it wouldn't work out, with Melissa living on the Central Coast and the age gap. Ultimately, when the spark isn't there, you can't really force it.

Table for Eight returns in a fortnight. There are eight spaces at the table and one of them could be yours - email Cupid now.