

Summer love lessons
from *Laguna Beach*

Dating in the real O.C.

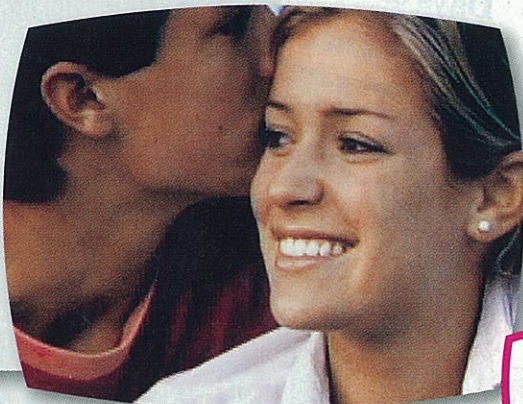
With their tans, mansions and wild beach parties, life looks pretty easy for the beautiful people of MTV's hot reality series Laguna Beach. Except when it comes to matters of the heart. The teens on the show, who like to boast they live in the real O.C., have experienced a roller coaster of emotions—from exhilaration to heartbreak—all in front of millions of viewers. INSIDE TV went to four of Laguna Beach's most experienced daters for their take on winning and losing in love. Here's what they had to say...

Kristin, 18

LAGUNA DATING HISTORY: Her relationship with Stephen was filled with plenty of drama. And when he went away to college in San Francisco (with rival LC, no less, though she later returned to Laguna), they tried to make a long-distance relationship work. But it wasn't long before Kristin set her sights on other guys.

DATING STYLE: "If you're leading [two guys] on and telling both of them that you like them, that's wrong. But if you're just hanging out and having fun with two guys, then I don't think that's a really big deal."

DATING ADVICE: "It's really about trust. If you can't trust a guy, then there is no point in being with him."



TUNEIN!

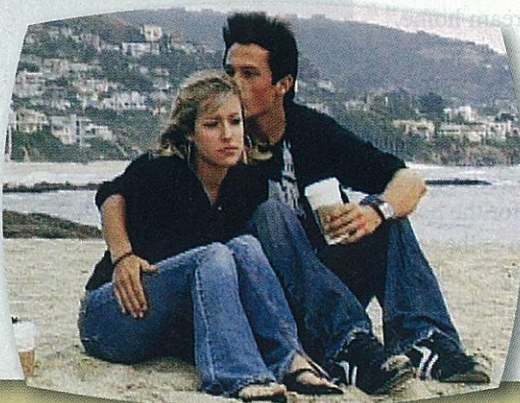
Laguna Beach
on MTV, Monday
at 10 pm

Stephen, 19

LAGUNA DATING HISTORY: The college freshman dated Kristin while trying to maintain a friendship with Lauren (whom he had previously hooked up with). Now that things with Kristin are on the rocks, things with Lauren look like they have a chance of moving a step beyond friendship.

DATING STYLE: "When you don't let emotions get the best of you, I do believe [a 'friends with benefits' arrangement] works. However, you have to be careful and make sure each of you knows where it's going."

DATING ADVICE: [To mend a broken heart] "You gotta pick yourself up. No questioning what went wrong—play the field and have fun because you're SINGLE!"

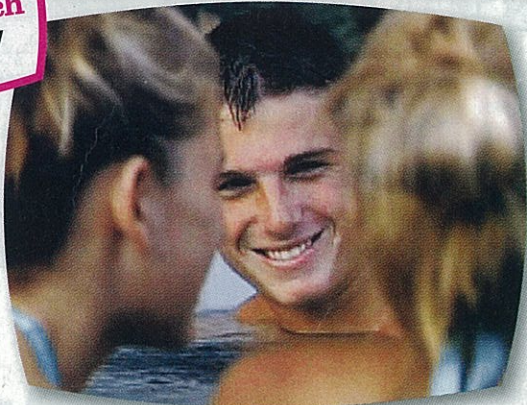


Lauren (aka "LC"), 19

LAGUNA DATING HISTORY: She hooked up with her best guy friend Stephen, which, surprisingly, did not damage their lifelong friendship. But when he started dating the popular Kristin, a rift between the girls put Stephen smack in the middle.

DATING STYLE: "I like being friends with a guy first because I'm more comfortable around them. I normally end up going for really dorky guys because good-looking guys are so full of themselves. I can't stand it—I've literally dated guys that take longer getting ready than I do."

DATING ADVICE: "Honesty is important. If you're scared that person will judge you, you're going to hide things from them, and then it just doesn't work."



Talan, 18

LAGUNA DATING HISTORY: Though trying to change his ways, this hot jock's reputation in Laguna has been as the resident player (he even had a thing with Kristin while Stephen was away at school).

DATING STYLE: "I'm really a hopeless romantic. I tell girls I'm ready for a relationship, but they're all like, 'Shut up, yeah right.' I'm not really into the whole dinner, movie, beach date. I'm always myself and I like to see girls be themselves. Girls that say it takes a few dates to open up—I don't like that."

DATING ADVICE: "I like going to concerts on first dates because it's very active—you're screaming, dancing, partying and you have no choice but to be yourself."