

# Good LIVING

HOME, STYLE, BEAUTY, HEALTH

Make &  
Give

## IN THE SPIRIT

Elevate anyone's favorite cocktail (or just her seltzer) by stirring up and bottling one of these deliciously bright homemade syrups. The fennel-orange blend borrows its flavors from Italy, while the hibiscus-ginger delivers a tropical punch, and the spicy cinnamon adds depth to hot drinks. Give one bottle to every home on the block—or all three of them to the people you *really* love. For the recipes, turn to page 128.



## THE GIFTS TO GIVE

The best presents are heartfelt, thoughtful, and a thrill to open and enjoy. Every item on these pages qualifies, whether it's a well-made luxury that will last for years, or a hand-crafted personal token its recipient will love. Grab our list—it's time to deliver some cheer.

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG



With its teak handle and sleek lines, the **Skagerak** terra-cotta teapot is a pleasure to both have and behold. \$150, [trnk-nyc.com](http://trnk-nyc.com).



Our food editors love this ultra-fruity, organic EVOO from **Harvest Peace**. Its olives are grown in Palestine, and profits help plant trees destroyed by conflict. \$25, [harvestpeace.com](http://harvestpeace.com).



In these fun, info-packed cook booklets, culinary gurus take a deep dive into a single topic (e.g., Dorie Greenspan on butter). \$14 each, [shortstackeditions.com](http://shortstackeditions.com).



With its delicate border of lacy painted ferns, **Terrain's** verdant stoneware platter is a visual feast on the table or displayed on a shelf. \$78, [shopterrain.com](http://shopterrain.com).



Form and function meet in these hand-crafted cheese utensils with brass-riveted walnut handles by **Edgewood Made**. \$48 for each knife or set of 2 picks, [preservationfinegoods.com](http://preservationfinegoods.com).



Spread joy with cult tea purveyor **Bellocq's** jams, in flavors like tea-infused peach or blackberry, cassis, and sage. \$16 each, [bellocq.com](http://bellocq.com).



Outfit eager little cooks and bakers with a stylish indigo apron from **Minted**, scaled down to their size. \$28, [minted.com](http://minted.com).



Upgrade your favorite home cook's prep work with a graphic, colorful, and dishwasher-safe cutting board by **Hay**. From \$29 each, [store.moma.org](http://store.moma.org).



Cocoa nuts will clamor for **Thomas Keller** K+M Extravirgin chocolate bars. The chef's Midas touch: adding olive oil. \$15 each, [kellermannichocolate.com](http://kellermannichocolate.com).





## GRACE NOTES

Do call it a comeback. Personal stationery is on the rise (since, let's face it, email really doesn't cut it on all occasions). Make your ikat- (or Liberty print-, or chintz-) loving friend a custom suite featuring her favorite fabric. All you need is card stock, scraps of materials, and spray mount to bind the two together in a decorative way. Wrap the set in tissue, a final swath of fabric, and twine, and slide in a pretty pen. PS: She'll love you. For a detailed how-to, see page 141.







Maybe you can't give Mom marble counter-tops for Xmas. **Couleur Nature's** exquisite trays come in a very close second. From \$50 each, [couleurnature.com](http://couleurnature.com).



Send a virtual hug, in the form of a plush, buttery-soft color-blocked alpaca throw from designer **Jenni Kayne's** new home line. \$350, [jennikayne.com](http://jennikayne.com).



**Penn + Fairmount by Jason Forck's** handblown glass pitcher will land you on the "very nice" list for years to come. \$110, [pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://pittsburghglasscenter.org).



Stainless steel with a brushed-gold finish, **Martha Stewart Collection's** bar cart adds entertainment value to any space. \$286, [macys.com](http://macys.com).



Give the gift of chic *and* neat. These **Jayson Home** porcelain cups beautifully corral odds and ends in every room. Quarry cups, \$16 each, [jaysonhome.com](http://jaysonhome.com).



The Gen-Zers in your life will heart **Google's** Home Mini—the smaller, cuter version of its know-it-all digital assistant. \$49, [target.com](http://target.com).



Gardeners need a place—and a vase—for their most prized blooms. Enter this metallic-trimmed stunner from **LSA International**. \$50, [lsa-international.com](http://lsa-international.com).



Here's a cool way to put pep in your host's serving step: Wrap up an oak tray with leather handles by **Lostine**. From \$165, [ahalife.com](http://ahalife.com).



Set in motion a fun, screen-free evening at home with **Dovetail's** colorful, artsy puzzles. \$60 for 3, [food52.com](http://food52.com).





Make & Give

### COLOR THEIR WORLD

Break the crayon mold with a Technicolor DIY set. Using natural beeswax and carnauba wax, nontoxic dyes, and silicone ice molds (like these Lego-style blocks and gemstones, above), you can create a playful collection that's super-comfy in little paws. Pack them up in a wooden slider box so cleanup time is simple and swift. For the how-to, see page 141.

Great Stocking Stuffers



Whimsical notebooks from **Martha Stewart** offer blank canvases for journaling, doodling, and dreaming. From \$3 each, staples.com.



Prepare to be amazed. These sleight-of-hand tricks from **Cost Plus World Market** will keep 'em magically entertained. From \$4 each, worldmarket.com.



Aw, snap! **Fujifilm's** Instax Mini 9 camera ups the fun at any party. It prints and has a tiny mirror to assist with the inevitable selfies. \$70, bestbuy.com.



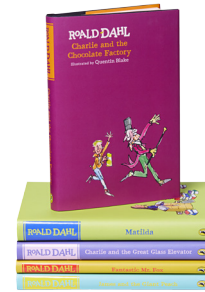
Delight mini mani-acs with **Nailmatic's** très belles water-based polishes; they're odor-free and wash off with soap. \$25, nailmatic.com.



Fuel the imaginations of future globe-trotters with **Pottery Barn's** scratch-off map, which lets travelers mark where they've been. \$20, potterybarn.com.



Soft, fluffy alpaca fibers make this super-huggable lion, hand-sewn by artisans in Peru, the king of (stuffed) beasts. \$55, abchome.com.



These scrumdiddlyumptious hardcovers of Roald Dahl's classics from **Puffin Books** will enthrall even little Veruca Salts. \$17 each, penguinrandomhouse.com.



For budding builders, **Brio's** activity set is chock-full of nuts, bolts, wheels, and wooden parts. It comes without projects, so tiny tinkerers can really go to town. Builder Activity Set, \$70, brio.net.





Make & Give

## DREAM WEAVES

Tell recipients of these gorgeously textured accessories that you relied on *kumihimo* (translation: “gathered threads”), the ancient Japanese braiding technique, to create them. The secret to these surprisingly simple projects is a *kumihimo* disk, available at crafts stores. It’s a foam or cardboard circle the size of a CD with notches around its edge to keep the strands (try cord, yarn, or leather) in place as you twist them into lariat necklaces or wrap bracelets. Best of all, these one-of-a-kind pieces are one-size-fits all. For the full how-to, see page 141.



GOOD LIVING



Roomy enough for a laptop, **Loeffler Randall's** tasseled metallic leather tote is bound to be someone's new everything bag. *Cruise tote, \$395, bloomingdales.com.*



**Domi's** luxe organic-cotton pajamas beg to be lounged in past breakfast. *\$210, sleepdomi.com.*



Modern romantics will love **Marcie McGoldrick's** porcelain cameo necklace—the coolest heirloom they never inherited. *\$300, marciemcgoldrick.com.*



These rich hand creams from **Bastide** come in French-vacation scents like lavender, orange blossom, and fig. *\$12 each, bastide.com.*



**Tees** faux-sheepskin slippers are sleek and supple on the outside, plush on the inside, and exquisite from every angle. *Ines slides, \$150, tees.com.*



**Craighill's** brass rings, accented with color, will distinguish everyone's house key (and instantly bond your brood). *Wilson key rings, \$15 each, craighill.co.*

Give someone a pair of **Garnet Hill's** cozy-but-not-bulky shearling gloves, and they'll think of (and thank) you every blustery day. *\$118, garnethill.com.*

Great Stocking Stuffer



She's been very good, so gift her the **Beekman 1802** Lump of Gold shimmer beauty bar for supreme skin pampering. *\$15, shop.beekman1802.com.*



**Beats by Dr. Dre** wireless headphones boast a lightning-fast recharge—just five minutes gives you three hours of listening. *Solo3, in Asphalt Gray, \$300, apple.com.*



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX ROKA; PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER ARDITO (NECKLACE, CREAMS, BEAUTY BAR, HEADPHONES, FRAGRANCE, BALM), MARTYNA SZCZESNA (TOTE, PAJAMAS, SLIPPERS, KEY RING, GLOVES, BRASS BOX, SOCKS)





**Jason Wu's** first fragrance, a blend of jasmine, peony, and lily of the valley, will dazzle your fashion-editor-in-training. Eau de Parfume, \$145 for 3 oz., [saks.com](http://saks.com).



We're stockpiling **Caudalie** French Kiss lip balms, which leave a creamy tint of healthy, grown-up color that lasts for hours. \$18 each, [us.caudalie.com](http://us.caudalie.com).



They'll flip for this satisfyingly solid brass box from **This Co.**, which keeps vitamins, medicine, or mints at the ready. \$18, [dbathis.com](http://dbathis.com).



**The White Company's** cashmere bed socks are like fancy sweaters for your feet. \$60 a pair, [us.thewhitecompany.com](http://us.thewhitecompany.com).