

Holiday Gifts

'Tis the season for giving; here's what's topping our delicious wish list.

BY REBECCA FREEDMAN



1 Serve You Well

St. Albans, Vermont Creamery's award-winning aged cow's milk cheese, comes in a cute heatproof crock; just pop it in the oven for a bit, and you've got a melty, addictive appetizer at the ready. **\$8.95; formaggiokitchen.com.**

2 Show Me the Honey

We're always in the market for a good vinegar, and O Honey white balsamic, made by steeping clover honey in white balsamic vinegar, is our newest find. Its balance of sweet-tart flavor makes it a natural for vinaigrettes, but use it wherever you'd like a splash of sweet acidity. **\$12; ooliveoil.com.**

3 Pretty in Pink

Filled with aromatic rose salt (fleur de sel combined with rosebuds, rose

petals, and rose oil), Sal de Ibiza's limited-edition crock comes with a ceramic salt spoon; as an added bonus, for every crock sold, the company will donate a portion of the proceeds to the fight against breast cancer. **\$25; thefrenchfarm.com.**

4 Not Just for Pancakes

Hailing from northern Vermont, Runamok's infused organic maple syrups have fresh, pure flavors, making them winning ingredients for both sweet and savory cooking. We especially love their two newest varieties, ginger root and Merquén (a smoked chili blend). **\$16.95 each; runamokmaple.com.**

5 Tea for a Cause

It would be enough to say that Ajiri tea, handpicked from small Kenyan

farms, has a lovely, smooth quality that we adore. But there's so much more: The company aims to employ Kenyan women (*ajiri* means "to employ" in Swahili); these women make the tea boxes by hand with dried bark from banana trees; each box has a removable label that can double as a greeting card; and the company's profits support orphan education in Kenya. **From \$9 for a box of 20 teabags; ajiritea.com.**

6 Sweet Surprise

Holiday crackers are a Christmas tradition, and these gorgeous, festive ones from Vosges are delicious, too: They're filled with seven individually wrapped black-salt caramels coated with a dark chocolate shell. **\$10 each; vosgeschocolate.com.**

7 Spice of Life

Le Bon Magot's small-batch, artisan condiments are made with bold, uniquely spiced South Asian, Middle Eastern, and African flavor combinations. Their products, both savory and sweet, include spiced raisin marmalade with ras el hanout and smoked cinnamon and lemon-sultana marmalade with caraway and saffron. **\$13 each; lebonmagot.com.**

8 Pickle Pick

By the time winter really kicks in, there's nothing we crave more than a taste of summer. Pickled Pink's perfectly pickled peaches fit the bill—sweet and spiced, with a slight kick of red pepper, they're summer in a jar. **\$9; pickledpinkfoods.com.**

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