

December 2013

In This Issue:

Founded 1981...our 32nd year

GIFT GUIDE 2013



Stumped on what to give to whom this holiday season? Has the recession and government stand off put you in a Scroogie mood? Fear not, ENTREE to the rescue. We've been assembling this list all year in the hopes it might come in handy just about now. Ponder these clever ideas for him and her and the little ones. No grinchies allowed here. Ever. It's Jingle Bells season, when stores are crowded and sales people are either non-existent, cranky or snarky. We press on, undaunted, singing Joy to the World, and wish peace to all.

GIFTS FOR HIM:

Men's fashion has never been more important than it is today, and, using the finest imported materials as well as unique prints and contrast details on the collars, cuffs, and plackets, Luchiano Visconti's dress and casual menswear lines make it easy to add style and flair to the man's wardrobe. Top quality, fine styling, and unique details at a great price, www.luchianovisconti.com.

Santa may be able to rock the beard, but the same is not true for every man. That's why the ShaveTech electric travel razor, \$39.99, makes a perfect present under the tree this holiday season. The shaver's USB power source allows it to be charged anywhere, anytime, making it an ideal gift for the active man. Available for purchase online at www.shavetech.com and at select retailers in the U.S. and Canada.

GIFTS FOR HER

Preen Cream to seal and shine and Swimcap to protect by Philip Kingsley, hair products from the master, www.philipkingsley.co.uk.

With over 1500 premium beauty products, Starlooks, the new luxurious PRO-quality cosmetic line, boasts vibrancy, long lasting wearability and an affordable price tag. Their monthly subscription box, Starbox, offers 3 to 4 full-size and in-house products for only \$15 per month, www.starlooks.com.

Jonathan products, a celebrity-inspired luxury hair care line that is sulfate-free, 100% vegan, and utilizes purified, deionized Essential Water. This stuff is the best: Volume Shampoo and Conditioner, No-Frizz Hydrating Balm, Orange Oil and Lemongrass Paste for texture and shine, Styling Crème, Green Tea and Calendula Conditioning Mist and something called Silky Dirt, a miracle Shine and Define Crème redolent of sweet almond. Check out www.jonathanproduct.com, fabulous and very innovative, sure to leave your tresses their most beautiful.



Green Tea & Calendula Leave-In Conditioning Mist to revitalize and repair your hair from John Masters Organics, visit www.johnmasters.com.

For those ladies wanting only the purest products touching their face and body, we recommend Pangea Organics, a completely organic and socially aware line of skin care products. Pangea Organics makes soap, oils, cleaners, creams, masks, lip balm, body lotion and facial toner, all gorgeous skincare that nourish the body. All Pangea products are luxurious while still being organic, fair-trade, and cruelty-free. Pangea's commitment to high-quality organic ingredients means more antioxidants and fewer fillers. www.pangeaorganics.com.

For many years, cork has been heralded as an eco-friendly and usable resource for home decor and fashion items. This year, we are happy to recommend the Cork Designs natural, organic and lightweight knapsack, \$170, as a surefire gift item. For more designs, including a quite stylish clutch, check out www.shopcorkdesign.com.

We are loving City Cosmetics anti-aging products and think the women in your life will too. A combination of City Days Moisturizer and City Nights Restorative Serum will keep the wrinkles at bay and help restore fresher, younger looking skin. Top notch and technologically advanced skin care, not tested on animals. Visit www.citycosmetics.com.

Charmed Design's handcrafted, Japanese-inspired cord wrap bracelets, \$36, are a must-have accessory this holiday. These unique bracelets, designed by Lori Cohn, are meant to inspire and motivate the women who wear them. A fashionable gift with a message. www.charmeddesign.com.

Cleopatra's famed anti-aging ritual is believed to have centered on exfoliating in milk baths. The keys here being both exfoliation as well as the natural Alpha Hydroxy Acids found in milk. Evenly Radiant Overnight Peel, which contains these same ingredients, has been proven to reveal younger and smoother looking skin. It is 100% vegan, cruelty-free and GMO-free. And trust us, it works. For more information, and a whole list of wonderful other products, visit www.dermae.com.

Stacks of soul bracelets from Pretty Peacock make a fabulous and charming gift this season. Each set is comprised of six metal bracelets, a rhinestone bracelet, a 24k lotus charm, and a charm with a motivational/inspirational text-perfect for yoga lovers, little or big girls and just about anyone. www.prettypacock.com.

When skin becomes irritated or dehydrated, which tends to happen with all of the cold snaps and forced warm air during the wintertime, why not give the gift of balanced, moisturized and healthy skin? We turn to Sebamed's Derma-Soft Wash Emulsion, \$23, to



keep our skin healthy, www.sebamedusa.com. Traditional soap is way too alkaline for our skin and creates that dry, tight feeling. This emulsion is the winter alternative. It's balanced at pH 5.5 (the same pH as healthy skin) and counteracts damage from windburn, redness, chapping and irritation by optimizing skin to protect itself from dehydration. Helps treat common winter skin conditions like eczema and premature wrinkling.

Amarte Aqua Veil Hydrator: This cucumber-infused serum optimizes hydration by releasing droplets of pure H₂O onto the skin to form a protective veil. A toner and serum in one, it gives skin a silky, youthful radiance with an ultra-light finish that can be layered under other products to help retain their moisture, too. \$65, www.amarteskincare.com.

Repêchage Hydra Dew Illuminating Cream Mask: The natural light reflecting minerals in this seaweed-based moisture mask leave dry skin illuminated and virtually flawless. The trick—Don't wash off with water! Leave a thin layer on for 10 minutes (or overnight for deep conditioning) and tissue off. Pat away excess with a damp cloth. \$33, www.repechage.com.

Organic scrubs have been the rage for years, especially during the skin dulling winter months. Radiantly You all natural and organic body butters and sugar scrubs help combat the winter blahs and reveal healthier, more glowing skin. She's sure to love them. www.radiantlyyou.com.

Treat your skin to the luxury of Swiss chocolate with Karin Herzog's special edition Chocolate Collection. Here's a way to satisfy your sweet tooth without extra calories, while also reaping the benefits of world class oxygen skin care. Cleanser, restorative cream and moisturizer, all beautifully packages and almost good enough to eat. www.karinherzog.com.

Fashionable and funk-tional shower caps from LA Indulgence, the must-have accessory for total protection and super cuteness, \$24.95, www.laindulgence.com.

GIFTS FOR THE HOME

Nothing like the gift of warmth and ambiance for a friend, loved one or even yourself. L'Olivier Floral Atelier's Vert De Vert candle, made in France, is a magical melody of olive tree leaves, water hyacinth, patchouli, lavender, pine, geranium, peppermint, eucalyptus, sage, hawthorne, chamomile, verbena and lemongrass. Go to www.lolivier.com to see their full line of delectable scents.

The bar has been raised with the latest Cree, Inc. innovation—the Cree TrueWhite Series LED Bulb. A lightbulb as a present? Why not? This revolutionary bulb, around \$20, emits natural LED light allowing brighter, more natural ambiance at a fraction of the energy consumption. Consider this the gift of light. www.creebulb.com.

Colonial Cocktail Candles bring all the fragrance of happy hour without the need for a single adult beverage. Choose from Sweet Tea Vodka, Manhattan, Piña Colada, Strawberry Daiquiri, Gin and Tonic, Mint Julep or Amber Ale. These candles come along with a drink recipe and are in smart glass containers. Plus, they smell like the real McCoy. www.colonialcandle.com.

Velvet pumpkins from LoveFeast Shop come in rich colors, beautifully accentuated with favorite flowers, berries and leaves. Great all through the fall and winter seasons for the table or room decor. See the complete collection: www.lovefeasttable.com.

Whether used as gift tags for holiday presents, labeling baskets around the house, or identifying luggage bags as you travel, Ring Ching Ching's gift tags are a colorful and unique way to set you and your gifts apart from others this year. And, at only \$10 per set, which includes 10 tags in a single print, this a great and inexpensive way to add some flair all year round. www.ringchingching.com.

Inspired by the many destinations, awe-inspiring animals, and lush environments of the world, rockflowerpaper is creating jewels of home decor sure to delight even the most irreverent on your list. The newest collection of heat and



moisture- resistant trays, in all shapes and sizes, draws on the vibrant colors of India for inspiration, \$35-\$100. Functional and beautiful. www.rockflower-paper.com. We love their highly lacquered trays and place mats with animals and motifs gathered from the palaces of India.

Barcelona wine glass paper shades from diPotter, the paper table collection, just fold these colorful shades around a wine glass add a LED battery light and voila, you have a perfect chic tea light, www.dipotter.com.

Siamese Water Botanical Aromatic Travel Candles, \$28, are hand-made in Thailand and inspired by the ancient traditions of Far Eastern art. Siamese Water has its roots in the Kingdom of Siam's legendary ancient Water Festival, infused with pure essential oils of sweet blooms of honey jasmine, exotic ylang ylang, and refreshing Thai mint. Each is created using 100% pure essential oils and soy wax. The glass jars are hand blown, with a distinctive, vintage-inspired design. Three different scents—Velvet Blossoms, Grand Manchou, and Botanical. Grand Manchou is lush and tropical, Velvet Blossoms is distinctive, intense and seductive, with opulent ylang ylang, earthy French lavender, Egyptian geranium, woody musk and Indian sandalwood. Featured at: www.gaiam.com/siamese-water-travel-candle/05-0788.html?start=1&q=botanical%20candle.

GIFTS FOR THE KITCHEN

There's nothing better than a freshly-cooked meal and a celebration around the table with family and friends. We have long thought that having the right tools at home can make cooking and entertaining a breeze. Though WearEver Pure cookware may not be the most glamorous gift, you can be certain that the cook will think of you every time they pull these gorgeous, nonstick and durable pans out. A five piece Pure Living set runs around \$60, making them an easy and useful gift, www.wearever.com.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Shnoozles, a child's best friend—a cute, huggable plush toy who's always ready for a nap or bedtime. Shnoozles are soothing and comforting with eyelids that actually close, and always cuddly and fun. No batteries required and they come with a Sleepy Time rhyme book that helps little ones get a good night's sleep. Visit www.shnoozles.com.



GOURMET DELIGHTS

If you like smoked salmon, you'll love Santa Barbara Smokehouse smoked salmon. Using only fresh Scottish salmon (never frozen), this company smokes in small quantities over oak and apple wood to yield a delicate buttery smoked salmon. Sliced paper thin after smoking, The New York Times Syndicate called this "the best in the world." Order traditional rope-hung, herb-lemon, oak roasted, mild or Royal smoked. A splendid gift but be aware they have limited quantities. (805) 966-9796.

Say goodbye to boring fruit baskets this year and turn to www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com for award-winning, superior gourmet gifts. We especially liked their handcrafted gourmet popcorn from www.kingofpop.com. Who knew gift baskets could be so stylish, versatile and fun?

Spanish Stuffed Olives, tapenades, spreads from Sugar Brook Farms, especially their sweet and spicy stuffed Peppadew garlic and herb spread, yummy with your favorite cocktail, www.sugarbrookfarms.com.

For the discriminating hungry: Marcela Valladolid's delicious ready-to-cook tortillas, meats and snacks like Al Pastor Pork, Ancho Chipotle Chicken, Arrachera Beef Flank Steak, corn and flour tortillas, Chile Lime Flaquitos, and Salsa Verde Tortilla Chips, www.safeway.com/marcela.

Cheeses (and crackers, too) from Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, unique and excellent artisanal cheeses and crackers from a gently-cared-for herd of cows and only 100% Vermont milk that elevates their cheddars, soft-ripened, medium-firm, and WindsorDale cheeses to the highest levels, www.vermontfarmstead.com.

Ribs to die for, www.pigofthemonth.com, the country's best source for BBQ smoked meats, BBQ ribs, all natural pulled pork, the best gourmet sausages, specialty bacon and more.

Lynnae's Gourmet Pickles, crisp and preservative-free pickles from a family's generations-old secret recipe, especially their Hot Mama pickles. Visit www.lynnaesgourmetpickles.com.

Isabella's Cookie Company is delivering satisfying, classically delicious cookies with a unique gourmet twist. Made with love, wholesome ingredients and always baked-to-order, each batch is guaranteed to delight even the most stubborn palate. This year we are loving the new Vegan Red Velvet and Vegan Gingersnaps, both \$5-\$10 per bag. www.isabellascookies.com.

WINES AND SPIRITS

Tanteo Jalapeño Tequila, a well-crafted jalapeño-infused tequila, provides just the right heat during these cold months. This blanco delivers a smoothness more often found in aged tequilas, allowing the jalapeño flavor to be softened by its delicate sweetness. Find information and recipes at www.t.tanteotequila.com.

We are crazy about C Cognac by Courvoisier, a crafted cognac that is uniquely blended and aged in oak for a bolder flavor and smoother finish. We also love Courvoisier's Rose liqueur, a smooth and aromatic drink made with select cognac and premium French red wine and Courvoisier's Gold liqueur, made with their cognac and quality French Moscato wine. www.courvoisier.com.

Who doesn't appreciate a bottle of wine? Freemark Abbey 2009 Sycamore Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon from the Napa Valley, a big wine intense with raspberries and black currants with layers of brown sugar and cinnamon. Francis Coppola's Diamond Collection, especially their 2011 Malbec, dramatic, smooth, velvety, with lush spice, black cherries and cassis. Shannon Ridge Wrangler Red 2011 from Lake County California, a multi-layered blend of delightful depth and silky smoothness. Gloria Ferrer Carneros Pinot Noir 2010, estate grown and estate bottled in Sonoma, aromas of red berries opening to cherry and pomegranate flavors, structured and silky. Francis Ford Coppola's Votre Sante, 2012 Chateau Red, a Burgundian-style wine from California grapes.



Excellence from Gloria Ferrer, especially their Sonoma Brut, a sparkler with delicate pear and floral notes; Gloria Ferrer's Blanc de Noirs, an outstanding bubbly, exuding bright strawberry and black cherry aromas, creamy cherry, lemon and cola flavors, lively and persistent. Gloria Ferrer's Va de Vi is a stylish methode champenoise with ripe apple aromas and ripe peach tastes. And don't miss Gloria Ferrer's 2011 Carneros Chardonnay, all granny smith apples, lemon peel and butterscotch or their 2010 Pinot Noir, filled with raspberry and cherry aromas and concentrated black cherry, ripe plum and oaky spices on the palate. Shannon Ridge wines from the hills of Lake County-2012 Chardonnay is crisp, with pear and apple, creamy, buttery, \$23; their 2011 Wrangler Red, an elegant and soft \$19 blend aged in oak, and well balanced fruit-forward 2010 Single Vineyard Petite Sirah, \$25, www.shannonridge.com. Glorious Pinot Noir from Laetitia: 2011 Laetitia Reserve du Domaine, worth the effort to find as it is in small production, beautiful flavor, depth, and balance, rich in dark fruit, complexity and spice, aged in French oak, www.laetitiawine.com.

Chilean Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc from Queulat Single Vineyard wines, some of the best this country has to offer, www.ventisquero.com. Fancy Pants wines, take your pick-red or Pinot Grigio when the dress and drinking code calls for casual and fun. Clean Slate 2012 Riesling, a desirable and lively Mosel wine that hints of flavorful green apple, lemon and grapefruit, www.cleanslatewine.com. Sofia Chardonnay 2012 from Francis Ford Coppola Winery, a bright wine at \$20, displaying lightness, elegance and complexity with crisp green apple, white peaches, spices and a hint of citrus, www.franciscoppolawinery.com. Napa

Valley's Franciscan Estate wines, most notably 2010 Magnificat, their signature heritage blend, the wild yeast fermented Franciscan Estate 2011 Cuvee Sauvage Chardonnay and their Franciscan Cabernet Sauvignon 2011. Cannonball 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, a well-defined berry, cocoa, dark chocolate toasted oak enticement, their rich and juicy 2011 Merlot, their lush and expressive 2012 Chardonnay and their zesty, vibrant and refreshing 2012 Sauvignon Blanc, www.drinkcannonball.com.

Sutter Home's 2011 Premium Pink Pinot Grigio, a fun and slightly sweeter wine with a lovely pink hue. Sutter Home's Red Moscato is rich and creamy, delightful with dessert, www.sutterhome.com. 2010 Raymond Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford District Collection, only 300 cases produced of dark, dense wine aged 19 months producing intense layers of aromas and flavors. Foley Johnson's 2010 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford Napa Valley is a bespoke wine that will reward you with complexity, fruit, oak and long finish.

Last but certainly not least, top wines from the Rutherford Dust Society: 2010 Rutherford Grove Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, a blend of two small estate vineyards, a beautiful wine with aromas of blackberry, dark cherry and vanilla enhanced by mature dusty fruit. 2010 Quintessa-rich, dense and refined, forward fruit and silky texture, floral and crème brulee vanilla notes. Freemark Abbey 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sycamore Canyon, Napa, a full bodied wine full of spicy black currant and black cherry, toasty oak and dried herbs, cinnamon and clove. Foley Johnson 2010 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, smooth and supple with a lingering finish, full of rich black fruits. Conn Creek 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Estate, pure dark cherry and black current emerge from a dark ruby wine framed by hints of oak and earth, youthful tannins support the bright fruit. 2010 Corley Tietjen Vineyard, Old Cope Clone, Rutherford, Napa Valley, an intense Cabernet Sauvignon full, ripe and notably currant, perfect for aging due to supple tannins.

This month, Cruzan Rum unveils the Cruzan Distiller's Collection, a line of super-premium, blended aged rums. Each rum is aged between five and twelve years and, like all Cruzan rums, is made from tropical rainwater, high-quality molasses and distilled to be the cleanest-tasting rum around. www.cruzanrum.com.

Broken Shed Vodka, made from two of New Zealand's purest water sources, distilled four times from New Zealand whey and bottled in Cromwell on New Zealand's South Island.

GIFTS FOR THE TRAVELER

The TLS Collection from eBags is tough, lightweight and smart-looking, the best thing we carry with us when we hit the road. Look to eBags for packing cubes, carry-ons, shoulder day bags, totes, and hardside spinners that beautifully combine form and function. www.eBags.com is the site where it's all at.

Here's an easier way to do your Christmas shopping-especially for friends and family who like to travel. Order an affordable present online or by toll-free telephone from TravelSmart Newsletter. All 60 gift items are tested by TravelSmart staff, shipping is free and gift wrapping and a card cost just \$3 extra. www.travelsmartnewsletter.com.

The must-have gift this year seems to be the battery extender for all of the electronics we carry day to day. We recommend, Jackery, the new external battery that allows the carrier to fully charge his or her smartphones and tablets on the go. The Jackery charger, \$20-\$60, is lightweight, fast-charging, small in size with a sleek design. Best of all, the battery adds up to 220 hours extra operation time. www.jackeryusa.com.



Regardless of whether the trip is for business or pleasure, we've always thought that one of the most important elements of successful travel is high-quality, reliable luggage. ThermalStrike is sleek and luxurious. But the true marvel is its ability to heat itself to a temperature that will effectively eliminate bed bugs, without ruining anything else inside. \$350-\$400, www.thermalstrike.com.

Barefooters are slip-on shoes that we think feel better than going barefoot. Made of CorksiLite, a washable blend of cork and silicone, these approximately \$100 shoes, are extremely flexible and shock-absorbing. They are designed as a walking shoe to naturally strengthen feet, stretch ligaments and massage tired muscles. Plus, they look interesting and are sure to get you noticed, www.mybarefooters.com.

Scrubba Wash Bag, a lightweight ingenious flexible gizmo with an internal washboard for cleaning clothes anywhere on the run, www.thescrubba.com.

BOOKS WE LOVE

DEXTER'S FINAL CUT by Jeff Lindsay, a suspenseful, dark and daring novel with a shocking ending. WILD TALES by Graham Nash, a life in rock and roll, with all its fascinating highs and lows by a legendary musician. CREATIVE CONFIDENCE, Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us All, by Tom Kelley, breakthrough, proactive and creative ideas that can improve our companies, careers and lives. BAD BLOOD by Arne Dahl, www.booksontape.com, a riveting crime novel from a master; THE WOLVES OF MIDWINTER: The Wolf Gift Chronicles by Anne Rice, Random House Audio, a surprising and compelling best-selling novel, the first of her strange and mythic imagining of the world of wolven powers.

THE MOUNTAIN by expert mountaineer Ed Viesturs, Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, \$27. Viesturs has spent the majority of his career on Everest. His relationship with the peak has spanned his life and mirrored its course, from his first climb in 1987 as a nomadic 27-year old, to his most recent return to Everest for the eleventh time in 2009. Ed is earnest in his belief that climbing teaches character. And no other mountain has taught him more than Everest. Offering a deeper meditation of climbing in such rich detail, THE MOUNTAIN comes complete with beautiful photos chronicling past expeditions, Everest's breathtaking scenery, and so much more.



BERLITZ CRUISING & CRUISE SHIPS 2014 by Douglas Ward, now in its 25th year of publication, the “Bible” of the cruise industry by the legendary critic and authority. GLAMOROUS RETREATS by Jan Showers, Abrams, \$50, follow-up to the bestselling GLAMOROUS ROOMS, this book takes readers inside Showers’s luxurious interiors in vacation locales across North America and the Caribbean, from the mountains of Colorado, to the beaches of Florida and the Bahamas, to the ranches of Arizona and Texas.

We love Random House Audio Books on CD. Here are a few of our favorites: POLICE: a new Harry Hole novel by Jo Nesbo. Despite Oslo’s most brilliant most unpredictable detective going missing, this is a diabolical hide-and seek story with human evil at its core. THE DEATH OF SANTINI by Pat Conroy, a heart-wrenching story of a father and his son, a poignant lesson in how the ties of blood can both strangle and offer succor. THE CIRCLE by Dave Eggers, a captivating tale of one woman’s ambition and idealism that leads to heart-racing suspense and posits questions about memory, history, democracy and the limits of human knowledge. SYCAMORE ROW by John Grisham, the legal thriller master’s most assured and compelling novel that returns to the setting and unforgettable characters that first established him as one of America’s favorite storytellers.

AMSTERDAM: A History of the World’s Most Liberal City by Russell Shorto, a CD audio book by Books On Tape, is a vivid picture of the city. Tourists know Amsterdam as a picturesque vision of low-slung brick houses lining tidy canals; student travelers know it for its legal brothels and hash bars; art lovers know it for Rembrandt’s glorious portraits. But the deeper history of Amsterdam, what makes it one of the most fascinating places on earth, is bound up in its unique geography-the constant battle of its citizens to keep the sea at bay and the democratic philosophy that this enduring struggle fostered. Amsterdam is the home of liberalism, in both its senses. In this effortlessly erudite account, Shorto traces the idiosyncratic evolution of Amsterdam, showing how such disparate elements as herring anatomy, naked Anabaptists parading through the streets, and an intimate gathering in a sixteenth-century wine-tasting room had a profound effect on Dutch-and world-history.

Markets, street food, fine dining or raucous family feasts. Whether one travels to eat, or is a foodie sizzling away in the kitchen, they will find plenty in Lonely Planet's *THE FOOD BOOK: A Journey through the Great Cuisines of the World*, \$24.99, to satisfy their lust for new flavors, textures and aromas. The Food Book is a one-stop culinary reference providing insights into the culture, history and essential dishes of over 40 countries. Packed with beautiful food and destination photography, it profiles culinary traditions from all over the globe including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. Exploring each country's essential produce, defining dishes, and culture of preparing, eating and celebrating with food, *THE FOOD BOOK* is the perfect gift for foodies and travelers alike.

Rick Browne's *A CENTURY OF RESTAURANTS*, \$40, Andrews McMeel Publishing, is a fascinating cookbook about America's restaurants over 100 years old that would be a welcome present for lovers of food and cooking. Chock full of classic recipes and memorable history.

And do not forget: *THE NEW CALIFORNIA WINE* by Jon Boone, Ten Speed Press, \$35, a guide to the producers and wines behind a revolution in taste. *THE WAY WE ATE, 100 Chefs Celebrate a Century at the American Table*, by Noah Fecks and Paul Wagtouicz, Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, \$35, an extravagantly illustrated cookbook chronicling the rich culinary history of the last American century. *THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE* by James Peill, Vendome, \$55, stately, grand, and a testament to the generations who have cared for them, the 10 English country houses featured in this volume are architecturally distinctive and filled with evocative family memorabilia, from commissioned portraits to monogrammed heirloom dinner services to the bells that once summoned the downstairs staff. Like Downton Abbey, these homes are still in the hands of descendants of the original owners.

BOUNTIFUL, *Recipes Inspired by Our Garden*, by Diane Cu and Todd Porter, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$40, the renowned creators of the immensely popular photo, food and lifestyle blog www.whiteonricecouple.com offers 100 seasonal, flavorful and approachable recipes inspired by their love of cooking and their suburban garden.

PROHIBITION IN THE NAPA VALLEY: Castles Under Siege by Lin Weber, History Press, \$19.99, a wry tale of wine country's leading citizens and their fight for their livelihood to stop the Eighteenth Amendment.

THE A.O.C. COOKBOOK, Knopf, \$35, by Suzanne Goin, small plate, shared-style recipes from this enormously talented and beloved chef whose artistry is well known and fits the home chef perfectly.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OPERA HOUSES OF THE WORLD, Abrams, \$60, by Antoine Pecqueur with spectacular photography by Guillaume de Laubier, a lavishly illustrated homage to these captivating cultural treasures around the world.

THE RIADS OF MARRAKECH, ACC Editions, \$69.50, by Elan Fleisher, a superb portrait of twelve of the most prestigious, original and striking riads of Marrakech, each one illustrated with sumptuous photographs, capturing their beauty and exotic charm. A lush book, printed to a high standard that shows off the quality of the design and the rich flavor of Marrakech.

A GIFT EVERYONE WILL LOVE

Now is the time to order ENTREE Travel Newsletter as a gift for your traveling friends and business colleagues. Gifts are \$75 a year and they come festively gift wrapped with a card and your message. What better gift than a regular newsy travel advisory with insider hints and tips? Call (805) 969-5848 or email wtomicki@aol.com. Special rates for quantity orders.

We close with the hope that you make the most of the holidays. Rediscover the child in you. Embrace the untrodden path. Or the tender confessions of the soul. This truly can be the happiest time of the year if you focus on family and friends and celebrate the power of love.



Our Favorite Travel Agent: Vivian Taylor

The reemergence of the travel agent is well documented—the stories of those folks who can save your trip with a call to special contacts the world over. For those of you with complex itineraries and who yearn for more exotic locales, there is nothing like a tried and true professional to sort out complicated arrangements and be there throughout with personal suggestions, ability to open doors which might have been closed and when things seemingly go wrong. For these reasons we strongly endorse Vivian Taylor who for over 35 years has made travel dreams come true—with her personal relationships throughout the world, there is a wealth of information at her fingertips anxious to share with you. During the last 15 years, she has made her home in the US and Cape Town South Africa—this combination has allowed her to increase her knowledge and passion of Africa. Vivian has now focused on bringing this amazing destination to you with her personal touch that cannot be replicated—be it a beautiful stay in the stunning Cape Town or safari in the bush or the dunes of Namibia, she has the connections to bring it to you with ease and personal commitment.

Protravel International ~A Virtuoso Company~

Vivian Taylor International

Direct: 302-945-7255

Mobile: 310-497-2650

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