

CHOCOLATE

Last-Minute Stocking Stuffers For Foodies

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By RACHEL WEINGARTEN @rachelcw

*(walnuts.org)*

I'm guessing by now you've gotten the really big gifts out of the way, but with a few days left 'til the big day, it can be tempting to pick up a cool item or two to add on or enhance the really big gifts. If you're still searching for stocking stuffer ideas, I suspect you'll love one of these for your hard-to-shop-for friend with a really refined palate:



- **Nuubia Luscious Chocolate Half-Spheres** are somehow sprayed with a combination of natural colored cocoa butter and gold dust. They're absolutely gorgeous to look at and offer a complex mix of tastes including fresh squeezed lime juice with vanilla and honey ganache. These are definitely not chocolates for the unrefined palate, but more of an extremely thoughtful gift for someone with more sophisticated tastes.
- Then again, sometimes you want to add a little holiday sweetness to everything you wrap or share. **Hershey's Holiday Santa Hat Milk Chocolate Kisses** are ridiculously cute and perfect for sharing at work or with total strangers on your morning commute. (Yes, I've actually tried it!)
- One of my close female relatives has a bit of an obsession with red peppers, so much so that she eats an entire pepper a day. No problems there, right? Well, actually, whenever she has breakfast at my place she leaves a trail of pepper seeds on my counter that drive me to distraction. In case you think you've seen every gadget there is to see, I'm guessing you still haven't seen the **Pepper Corer** by **Crisp**. This nifty tool can core peppers of any size, so you can also remove pepper seeds from your ghost peppers without searing your skin in the process.

- Clueless about which wine to bring to dinner? **Secco Italian Bubbles** from Charles Smith Wines is a new category of sparkling wine, and while they come in chardonnay, rose is still incredibly popular and moscato is definitely the grape of the moment. Tote your wine safely in a **Rabbit Wine Tote**, which is insulated to keep wine cool and padded to keep the bottle safe.
- Want to make something up that's mostly good for you? Whip up a batch of **Spiced California Walnuts**, which are great for when you're trying to cut down on rampant Christmas cookie snacking.
- Bob's Red Mill has been around since the '70s, but the newer collection of **Ancient Grains** including farro, freekeh and the newly popular sorghum make for extremely thoughtful gifts for someone trying to find a new way to eat healthier foods.
- And because you're always looking for the next cool thing in vodka, **Deep Eddy** makes a sweet tea version that's made from real, whole leaf black tea and lightly sweetened with organic clover honey and is perfect as a cocktail add-in. Besides, the site is worth visiting just for the **amazingly beautiful graphics**.