

## ENTREE'S PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR 2005

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THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS ALMOST UPON US. All of us at ENTREE wish to share with you some of our best finds for gift giving this year. We've looked high and low for the unusual and useful, just for you, our esteemed reader. Here they are.

**F**OR THE KIDS: DISNEY'S CHICKEN LITTLE and TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS movie-based video games, perfect to occupy the hands and minds of little ones with popular characters they love, rated E for everyone, available for \$39.99 on Xbox and Playstation 2, and less for PC, at major retailers and [www.buenavistagames.com](http://www.buenavistagames.com). STORYREADER'S READ & SING ALONG DELUXE FUN PACK, featuring a sing-along microphone, carrying case, plus 2 songbooks with today's popular cartoons (Dora, and SpongeBob have entered the theater) to help kids three and up to read and sing, available for \$30.00, with additional books and library packs at stores and [www.storyreaders.com](http://www.storyreaders.com). CRAYOLA'S MY FIRST ELECTRONIC COLORING BOOK is sure to wow tiny eyes, plugging into a TV set for interactive puzzles, connect-the-dots and coloring pictures with a remote control palette and over 30 activities included, priced at \$10.00. Kids 6 and up will thrill to TECHNO SOURCE'S handheld video games such as BATMAN BEGINS, available both in a key-ring and bat-shaped portable size, as well as COLECO'S ELECTRONIC QUARTERBACK and ELECTRONIC SOCCER KEYRING for budding athletes, as well as SCOOBY-DOO! A haunted-house ghost-catching escapade that fits in the palm, see [www.technosourceusa.com](http://www.technosourceusa.com) for details and prices. PLAYMOBIL has helped kids explore their imaginations with tiny figures and detailed settings for decades; we recommend the DINO EXPOSITION BASE CAMP for boys and MY TAKE ALONG DOLLHOUSE for girls, ages 4 and up, both available for \$29.99 at toy stores and [www.playmobilusa.com](http://www.playmobilusa.com). These oughta keep them out of your hair for a few days.

**F**OR HIM: THE BRUT GIFT COLLECTION, including cologne, plus an aloe/shear butter shave gel and after-shave balm for \$12.99, in that famous seasonal green and clean masculine scent, visit [www.brutworld.com](http://www.brutworld.com). THE PAUL MITCHELL SUPER SKINNY HOLIDAY COLLECTION, featuring a shampoo, daily treatment, and serum that displaces extra water, drying hair 30% faster and protecting it from damage while constricting hair strands tightly, portions of the \$25 collection price go to Children's Hospital Los Angeles, see [www.paulmitchell.com](http://www.paulmitchell.com) for details. ACTIONTECH'S WIRELESS GAME ADAPTER is a pint-size unit helping cut down on twisted cords for fierce online play of your gamer's favorite Xbox and Playstation 2 games for \$129.99, visit [www.actiontecstore.com](http://www.actiontecstore.com) for more. JACK BLACK SIGNATURE EAU DE PARFUM for men: Blue, Silver and Black Mark "liquid magnetism," featuring unique essences of Ceylon cardamom and wild cypress, Japanese juniper and ginger, and Kashmir saffron and red cedar, each priced at \$65.00 for 3.4 FL OZ., see [www.getjackblack.com](http://www.getjackblack.com). BLV NOTTE, AQUA, and POUR HOMME are all masculine fragrances by BVLGARI, whose scents we love on both teams in the war of the sexes. To usher in 2006, PERRIER

JOUET GRAND BRUT Champagne comes in a handsome gift box with two decorated glasses for \$69.95, and is always a delightful, well-balanced treat. Lastly, no real hombre would be complete without a bottle of 1800 TEQUILA, the world's best-selling super-premium tequila, crafted from lava-soil-grown 100% pure blue agave, traditionally slow-cooked and distilled to a clean, smooth perfection, available at around \$24.00 for silver and reposado, and around \$39.00 for luscious anejo, in 750 ml bottles.

**F**OR HER: She'll go wild for the uber-trendy fragrances from BOND NO. 9, with cute fragrance titles taken from New York's most fashionable neighborhoods. Seductive packaging and artisan-crafted scents make their candles and perfumes must-haves for women this year, whether they desire the chamomile, paperwhite and vanilla infused-Park Avenue, or the floral combinations of white peony, white hyacinth and musk in Chelsea Flowers (some cleverly packaged scents even come looking and smelling of gourmet desserts). Gorgeous bottles bear the company's insignia of the old NYC subway tokens in various colorful, chic, and sleek art, prices vary with stylish gift boxes available, visit [www.bondno9fragrances.com](http://www.bondno9fragrances.com) for complete availability. We also love POUR FEMME, EAU PARFUMEE AU THE VERT, EAU PARFUMEE AU THE BLANC, OMNIA, and VOILE DE JASMIN, seductive scents by the masters of BVLGARI. Short of a spa visit, nothing promotes beauty and soul like the Zen-inspired products from NATURAL SELECTION BATH AND BODY; including Zen Herbal Milk Bath Teas (\$7.95 for set of two) in four scents, cleansing Soap Rose Petals (\$11.50) to scatter in the tub for peace of mind, Silk Herbal Lip Balms (\$4.00), Zen Massage Bar (\$9.95), the Shea Lotion Stick (\$7.95) and safe, soothing Room and Linen Sprays (\$13), which can also be applied on the temples for desired effects ranging from energy to tranquility, their BUDDHA BABY collections are perfect for new mothers, see [www.naturalselectionbathandbody.com](http://www.naturalselectionbathandbody.com). THE VERMONT TEDDY BEAR is a legendary hand-crafted and loving friend that is so soft and adorable, even the most hardened members of our naughty list give in to its considerably cute, soft charms, visit [www.vermontteddybear.com](http://www.vermontteddybear.com) to deliver a Bear-Gram today. Dive into HARBOR SWEETS divine handmade chocolates, almost too good-looking to eat, almost...visit [www.harborsweets.com](http://www.harborsweets.com) for a whole range of mouth-watering gift ideas. Replacing plug-in air fresheners, noxious sprays, smoky candles, and damaging incense have been all-natural scent diffusers that run from a bottle up through carefully placed sticks. ILIO MODERN AIR FRAGRANCE has introduced a line of these popular air refreshers in elegant bottles and tasteful sticks that imbue great scents from Clear, Crisp and Bright categories, including scents as varied as "Vanilla Sunset" to "Lemon Drops." See [www.iliofragrances.com](http://www.iliofragrances.com) for more on these marvelous reed diffusers. And don't leave her without some tequila of her own, we found super-premium FRIDA KAHLO TEQUILA to be distinctly smooth, not mass produced but traditionally crafted as an homage to the artist's favorite libation, with delicate hints of pure blue agave and Frida's iconic image, \$50 for blanca, \$90 for anejo, but available only in small batches at upscale spirit stores.

**F**OR EVERYBODY: HOT ITEM ALERT: The new BLACKBERRY 8700c has been introduced to integrate today's coolest wireless functions in one handheld device. Imagine calling, e-mailing, websurfing, text messaging with a full QWERTY keyboard, and organizing your schedule, documents and contacts with one fast-moving, powerful device that fits inside your pocket easily, but has a big enough full-color screen to not miss a trick, available for roughly \$299.00, visit [www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com). Santa's lil' helpers need to rejuice and rest in turns, try STARBUCK'S DAWN &

DUSK CHRISTMAS blends packaged together handsomely with both regular and decaf 8 oz. seasonal boxes for waking-up or soothing your weary gift-wrapping hands, available at Starbucks store, you ought to be able to find one of these nearby, right? The coffee giants are also helping remedy Christmas Carol Blues for anyone sick of "Jingle Bells." Offering three CDs, Baby It's Cold Outside, with soul-warming tunes from Norah Jones, Dean Martin, Aimee Mann, and Ella Fitzgerald; along with the jazzy A Charlie Brown Christmas recorded by the Vince Guaraldi Trio; and Elton John's Christmas Party with the singer's hand-picked selections of holiday tracks from The Beach Boys, Otis Redding, U2, and The Pretenders, among others. Visit [www.starbucks/heardmusic.com](http://www.starbucks/heardmusic.com). MOOSEWOOD HOLLOW'S Sweet Autumn maple syrup of sweet spices and vanilla infusions, as well as a Sweet Chai variety with ginger and cardamom, is sure to liven up ordinary pancakes this winter with distinct tastes from Vermont, for \$12 each from [www.infusedmaple.com](http://www.infusedmaple.com). With breakfast on the mind, we look towards GRANDYOATS, the New England company that makes bulk and packaged granolas, roasted nuts and trail mixes by hand in small batches using only the finest organic ingredients, see [www.grandyoats.com](http://www.grandyoats.com). TAYLOR PRECISION PRODUCTS makes the home kitchen's favorite thermometers and timers, and has a new CONNOISSEUR LINE of innovative, accurate instruments to ease holiday cooking stress with wine, oven, meat, candy, beverage, and grill thermometers ranging from \$13-\$25, visit [www.taylorusa.com](http://www.taylorusa.com). Teas and chais are all the rage these days, we recommend OREGON CHAI'S unique blends of black tea, vanilla, honey and spices, available at [www.oregonchai.com](http://www.oregonchai.com); for tea, we love ORGANIC INDIA's blends of chai masala tea, Darjeeling, guta kola, green, and tulsi tea varieties, using rare organic herbs from the subcontinent to promote ayurvedic winter wellness, as well as the livelihoods of local farmers and tribal communities, visit [www.omorganics.com](http://www.omorganics.com). With new digital cameras in hand, we're sure many of you could use MICROSOFT'S DIGITAL IMAGE SUITE 2006, a program helping you to edit, organize and enhance your new electronic library of photos with a full set of practical and creative tools, visit [www.microsoft.com/imaging](http://www.microsoft.com/imaging), priced at \$99.95.

**F**OR TRAVELERS: The travel community is excited to see MICHELIN branching out to the great restaurants and hotels of the states starting with MICHELIN NEW YORK CITY 2006, a guide to the greatest and most talked-about locations in the Big Apple, available for \$16.95, see [www.michelintravel.com](http://www.michelintravel.com). MALEFACE SKINCARE'S ULTIMATE TRAVEL KIT, arrives in a sleek, book-sized sports kit with full-size quality products including a deep cleaning face scrub, vitamin enriched shave cream, shampoo/conditioner, lip balm, vitamin C face and body wash, eye gel, razor bump remedy, and facial moisturizer. Big with male celebrities and fashion forward metros, the \$99.50 kit is available at [www.maleface.com](http://www.maleface.com) or his favorite salon. Tired of the captain's announcements when you just want to hear silence or music? You must try SOLITUDE HEADPHONES with 18-20 decibels of active noise cancellation for \$199, a sure way to hold onto Bach when other passengers have to hear about altitudes, visit [www.solitudeheadsets.com](http://www.solitudeheadsets.com). Travelers will also love VIOLIGHT TRAVEL'S DELUXE ULTRAVIOLET TOOTHBRUSH SANITIZER if they are even a fraction as germ-phobic as we are, the device stores a toothbrush and uses germicidal UV light to kill bacteria, priced at \$29.95, visit [www.violight.com](http://www.violight.com). TRAVEL N SLEEP'S compact inflatable head rest pillow will help you prop up your neck and head in uncomfortable planes, trains and automobiles with better support, visit [www.travelnsleep.com](http://www.travelnsleep.com).

**B**ooks on CD from Random House Audio, the best way we know to give or receive a book: **HEALTHY AGING** by Andrew Weil, M.D., a lifelong guide to your physical and spiritual well-being, \$27.50; **JOHN** by Cynthia Lennon, an extraordinary portrait of the amazing musical legend as told by his ex-wife, \$27.50; **MAYBE MIRACLE** by Brian Strause, a vastly entertaining novel about an American family transfixed by a series of humorous, heartbreaking and mysterious events, \$29.95; **TOXIC BACHELORS** by Danielle Steele, the surprises and perils of dating, relationships and love as only this popular author can write it, \$29.95; **MAKING A GOOD BRAIN GREAT** by Daniel G. Amen, M.D., a positive and practical road map for enriching and improving your greatest asset—your brain, \$27.50; **THE COLOR OF LAW** by Mark Gimenez, a provocative legal thriller in the spirit of a young John Grisham, \$29.95; **THE RIVER OF DOUBT** by Candice Millard, Theodore Roosevelt's darkest journey in the Amazon that changed the map of the Western Hemisphere, \$29.95; **DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MYTHOLOGY** by Kenneth C. Davis, everything you need to know about the greatest stories in human history but never learned, \$29.95. **RUSSIAN PARKS AND GARDENS** by Peter Hayden, published by Frances Lincoln, \$60, spans eight hundred years of great gardens from the first Byzantine influences in the 12th century through the present day.

**O**ur holiday wine recommendations: Argentinian wines full of character from **GRAFFIGNA**—rich and dark Malbec and complex, concentrated Shiraz from \$8.99-\$17.99; 2002 **WOLFFER** Premier Cru Merlot, dark red brick in color, loads of ripe fruit with hints of toffee and dark chocolate, \$125 the bottle and worth every penny; 2004 **WYNNS COONAWARRA** Estate Cabernet, Shiraz Merlot, a tri-varietal with pepper-and-spice cassis aromas and textured blackcurrant and spice flavors, \$16; 2004 Wynns Coonawarra Estate Riesling, fresh and aromatic, floral citrus with elegant display of lemon, \$15; **ROTARI** sparkling wines from Italy's Trentino region, elegant and crisp, and priced at just \$10-\$14; **CAMPO RIOJA RISERVA** 2000, made from Tempranillo, Graciano and Mazuelo grapes in Spain—garnet ruby red and ripe berries plus vanilla in the mouth, a rounded wine full of flavor for just \$12.99 a bottle; charming **LULU B.** wines from the sunny South of France, a trio of varietals—Syrah, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir with trendy screw caps, colorful labels and priced just right—\$9.99 each, a steal for high quality French wine, see [www.boissetamerica.com](http://www.boissetamerica.com).

**T**reats from **COLAVITA** like their flavored olive oils, varietal vinegars, gift baskets, visit [www.colavita.com](http://www.colavita.com); the **PHILIPS SENSEO** single serve coffee pod system, to brew the finest **DOUWE EGBERTS** gourmet coffee, a quick and easy way for savory flavor and aroma in less than a minute, [www.philips.com](http://www.philips.com).

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