



Kelly Mitchell, The Wine Siren, Napa Valley, Contributor
The Wine Soaked Adventures of Napa Valley's The Wine Siren

Best Wine Gifts You Can Get For The Holiday Host/Hostess

12/29/2017 04:07 pm ET



THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS.

And other lessons I learned about the winter holidays. It's so much better to be an adult. Wine gift giving made easy. Do you remember when you found out there isn't a Santa Claus? It's a light bulb memory for me. I was drinking ice tea with my father. He was barely 27 years old at the time. I was eight. The Beatles were playing in the background. I was on the heels of the worst Christmas ever. I opened my presents on the sly Christmas tree and knew everything I was going to open. It created the worst Christmas ever. Or so I thought.

Feeling very grown up sipping black iced tea (ewwww), I was confident enough to start discussing Christmas in the middle of summer with my father (I should've known that in itself was an omen). Waxing poetic on what I thought would be great gifts for me, I stood there dropping hints as subtly as a torpedo ready to detonate. Hand on my hip, all weight on my left leg I spoke with confidence. "And wouldn't it be amazing if Santa got the message". As I waited for my father's response, my weight shifting from one foot to the next. My eyes wide open in hope and expectation, he sighed. "Kelly, you do know there is

no Santa Claus don't you?". My eyes got bigger, maybe even watered a bit. I waited. The Beatles are singing "All You Need is Love" the music blaring. My Dad starts dancing in the kitchen. Shaking my head, I looked at him. Pleading silently, "Please let him take it back. Please make it not be true." That was the day I got sick on basic black iced tea. Never able to drink it again. The memory and experience stayed with me. That hot summer day, listening to The Beatles was truly the worst Christmas memory ever.

It doesn't matter what your memory of finding out there was no Santa. The reality is we are constantly playing him in so many aspects of our lives. The goal, to create that magical feeling of love within the element of surprise and fascination. I'm much older now, but I still get excited by great gifts and love to share them with people I care about.

I've carefully vetted these gifts and have truly gotten something out of each and every one of them. I hope you do the same. And hurry the hell up if you are still shopping! Time is short.

Celebrating 40 years of amazing vintages, a Napa Valley favorite of mine is [Raymond Vineyards](#). To mark this milestone they've created the best of the best. It celebrates five generations of winemakers since 1969. The elegant Cabernet Sauvignon exemplifies the hard work and tradition the Raymond family has embraced for decades. Aged in 100% new oak for 19-months this opulent red delivers on taste. Scintillating mouth feel, mocha, rich red fruit and a finish that leaves you wanting more. Ready for gift giving at \$40.00. [Find it here.](#)

