Capital Christmas
Why the city is a winter wonderland

FESTIVE SHOPPER
Stuck for inspiration? We take a look at the best gifts and the most fun places to get them

LUXURY SERVICE
Award-winning Phoenix House offers gourmet grazing and an historic neighbourhood

WARM UP IN STYLE
From spa pampering to afternoon tea, London has plenty of hideaways for the cold weather
London is packed with places to shop. But where are the best places for unique gifts, and where can you enjoy the festive spirit?

**Light Fantastic**
London's Christmas lights are switched on throughout the capital from November to January. If you visit the famous festive lights that illuminate historic streets and alleyways – whatever the reason, London is a winter wonderland.

**Capital Christmas**
Maybe it’s because Christmas in London has been immortalised in countless films and books, maybe it’s the famous festive lights that illuminate historic streets and alleys – whatever the reason, London is a winter wonderland.

CHRISTMAS INSTITUTES
London has no shortage of festive pastimes, from the traditional to the down-to-earth. If you want a slice of English eccentricity at its most quirky, watch the members of the Serpentine Swimming Club as they take their Christmas morning dip in Hyde Park with more water than swimming trunks and a Santa hat.

Mulled Wine and Shopping
You don’t need to head to the Continent for a traditional European market. London hosts a German market in Hyde Park (2 November to 4 January) at the Winter Wonderland. While you’re there, check out the views from the Giant Wheel, try your ice-skating skills or catch an icy-looked toffee apple.

The London Eye in winter
Clockwise from left: Liberty’s impressive building houses a short Savoy Heritage by the house of his mistress Nell Gwynne. Before 1830 only those with a ticket on the head could use the road. It sto be in the ‘leaming about the famous landmarks form the backdrop to all London’s most famous streets, and in the sights from Westminster while enjoying a traditional Christmas Day lunch.

LONDON’S FESTIVE FOODS
A road goose or turkey is the Christmas Day dinner of choice across Britain, along with mince pies, Christmas pudding and cake. This is by some of the best, check out what the Georgians had to eat. For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas trees, Prism Tree’s are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**Gifts for Him**
For those who enjoy the top of good whiskey. Why not hire one of Sloane 700 to choose from with variety from all over the world. There are always 240 malts to try before you buy, and the shop can also source fine wines and other whiskies.

Gifts for Her
With an in-house department, court jewellery and pieces worn upon necks of beauty, Harvey Nichols is the shopping hot spot for all the gifts for women you could possibly want. Handbag specialists include Anya Hindmarch and Mulberry for modern elegant looks. jewellery, cut out the range from Karen Foss. Savile Row is known for its vast collection of accessories so you’re bound to find some inspiration there. If you’re still stuck for ideas though, head to the Snowdrop Wonder, which is full of a unique selection of gifts for the person who has everything.

**Mull of Kintyre**
There are plenty of green spaces around London. In the sights from Westminster while enjoying a traditional Christmas Day lunch.

Traditions in English Homes’ (November 25 to January 4).

The Nutcracker
This year’s panto is Mother Goose and is in the fabulous surrounds of a 1901 music hall that once hosted the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel. The Empire’s annual show is much loved and into a house made of sweets. There are plenty of green spaces around London.

Eating Out
This year’s panto is Mother Goose and into a house made of sweets. The Nutcracker shows that sometimes, head to the Geffrye Museum (10 December) or Hyde Park (12 December). Alternatively, venture out to the vast Hyde Park Gate, Phoenix House and Gloucester Park have all been awarded five-star – the highest rating available – in the Visit Britain assessment scheme. Under the British Common Standard for Serviced Apartments, the properties achieved the rating for their wide range of facilities, on-site management, interior design, cleanliness and amenities. All properties are expected to have been graded by the end of 2008.

**Christmas is Coming...**
For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas tree specialists ‘Prism Tree’ are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**Christmas is Coming...**
For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas tree specialists ‘Prism Tree’ are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**In the Area**
The London Eye has a tree decorated by Tiffany & Co (rink from 19 November to 25 January) and, rather conveniently, it passed the views from the Giant Wheel, try your ice-skating skills or catch an icy-looked toffee apple.

**Festive Foods**
A road goose or turkey is the Christmas Day dinner of choice across Britain, along with mince pies, Christmas pudding and cake. This is by some of the best, check out what the Georgians had to eat. For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas tree specialists ‘Prism Tree’ are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**Christmas is Coming...**
For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas tree specialists ‘Prism Tree’ are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**Festive Foods**
A road goose or turkey is the Christmas Day dinner of choice across Britain, along with mince pies, Christmas pudding and cake. This is by some of the best, check out what the Georgians had to eat. For those who want to enjoy traditional British Christmas but have no time to make the preparations, Cheval has launched its seasonal services which include everything from two-bedroom hamper delivery. Christmas tree specialists ‘Prism Tree’ are on hand to decorate guests’ apartments to their specification (prices from £234 for a six-foot tree). You can also enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in your apartment - Cheval is ordering the best Yorkshire turkey from the acclaimed Lalgudi turkeys in Holland Park from (£50)

**Gifts for Kids**
Gifts can be enjoyable no matter what the occasion is. If you’re there, have a drink at the George, a fantastic mock-Tudor exterior, creaky wooden staircases and mullioned windows. Created from the timbers of the old ship HMS Hindustan, the store houses an eclectic range. Check out the Jean Nicholls also put on elaborate window displays.

**Still stuck for Ideas?**
CHEVAL IS A PERSONAL SHOPPER AVAILABLE. Ask YOUR CONCIERGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
www.chevalgroup.com
**STARR GRAZING**

Menus made up of small tasting plates have proved a massive hit with London diners, with restaurants ranging from Indian to Spanish offering a range of grazing dishes so you can experience the full talents of the kitchen. Acclaimed restaurant Le Cercle has a grazing menu made up of regional specialities from all over France and guests at Phoenix House can now eat the same food in the privacy of their apartment. The Gourmet Grazing menu has seven sections to choose from including Marin (fish and seafood), Fermier (meat and game), Plaisirs (richer, more luxurious dishes, some with caviar or foie gras), and Gourmandises (dishes).

**ME TIME**

Kick-start the New Year with some pampering. Take a dip in the pool at The Landmark’s sleek spa, relax in the gentle heat of the sanarium, then wake yourself up under the menthol and sandalwood infused showers. There are treatments for men and women that include ESPA facials; the ‘life saving’ back treatment; a jet lag reviver, and an aromatherapy sports and fitness massage.

Or relax at the Elemis spa at the InterContinental which has a therapeutic steam temple with atmospheric twinkling star lights – combine it with a cleansing clay treatment. Men and women are both well catered for; choose from therapies designed to relax, detox or recharge.

**Spa Offer**

The five star Landmark London in Marylebone is offering a One Day Spa & Health Club Pass to guests who book a one hour massage or facial before 30 April 2008.

The One Day Spa & Health Club Pass gives complimentary access to the facilities, including the semi-ozone pool, glass-walled poolside Klafs sanarium, menthol and sandalwood showers, whirlpool, steam rooms, and fully-equipped gymnasium.

To take up this offer, please quote: “Cheval Group” when making the reservation with the spa on 020 7 631 8010.

**SALES FEVER**

London’s January sales offer hundreds of bargains. The Harrods’ sale is one of the most famous and people queue the night before for the opening. This year, it starts at 9am on Saturday 27 December – as usual, it will be opened by a celebrity – and continues until Saturday 24 January. Most shops are similar. Harvey Nichols’ sales start on December 27 and last a month.

**Tea for Two: Traditional vs Modern**

How do you take your tea – traditional or with a twist? Afternoon tea in London is the perfect way to spend a cold wintry day – you just need to decide if you prefer old-school opulence or modern and funky.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Modern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BROWN'S</strong> Afternoon tea has been served at Brown's for over 170 years and it was enjoyed by Agatha Christie while she wrote 'At Bertram's Hotel' there. Listen to the sounds of the baby grand piano while tucking into finger sandwiches, pastries and scones. (£35, £44 with champagne).</td>
<td><strong>YAUATCHA</strong> Take oriental afternoon tea, at this funky dim sum restaurant. Start with a dim sum selection, such as baked venison puff and char sui bun, then move on to scones, gateaux, and a plate of exotic fruits (£24.50). Blue teas are on the menu and desserts include Dragon: a chocolate brownie with raspberry and red pepper coulis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE DORCHESTER</strong> Take afternoon tea in the Promenade, a room the same length as London landmark, Nelson's Column. There are sandwiches and scones or you can opt for high tea (£46) if you’re feeling particularly peckish, which also includes dishes such as asparagus and poached wild salmon, and a glass of champagne.</td>
<td><strong>NICOLE'S</strong> Have a miniature afternoon tea at designer Nicole Farhi’s in-store restaurant. Choose from bite-sized macaroons, mini patisseries and sandwiches, as well as blinis with smoked salmon (£16.50 or £26 with champagne). Those looking after their waistline can indulge in a 97% fat-free chocolate cake and “Pu-erh” tea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE RITZ</strong> Dress up for the Palm Court, the grand room at the Ritz where tea is served among the marble columns and elaborate gilt decoration. Book at least six weeks in advance. It’s a formal affair and men are requested to wear a jacket and tie. Afternoon tea costs £37, £48 with champagne.</td>
<td><strong>THE PARLOUR AT SKETCH</strong> The Parlour offers a traditional afternoon tea but in quirky surroundings with opulent fabrics, whimsical lights and animal heads poking out from around curtains. Afternoon tea costs £19.50, £30 with champagne. The tea selection includes Ayurvedic infusions and a Japanese tea with lemongrass.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>