

The Holiday Season Gift Guide



From high-end home décor and bespoke accessories to luxury chocolates and teas, here's a definitive holiday gifting guide.

TEXT **PRACHI JOSHI**

For the gourmand

Skip the hurriedly put together 'ready-made' gift hampers available online or at stores and instead create your own at Provenance in Mumbai. This newly-opened coffee house and gift boutique has a carefully curated selection of gourmet and lifestyle products from around the world – think croissants from Brittany in France, chocolate dragées (chocolates covered in a hard candy shell) sourced from the coastal town of Piraeus in Greece, artisanal chocolate from New Zealand, and more. You can also throw in local gourmet brands like coffee from Koinonia, cakes from Tier Nom Patisserie, etc. and add interesting touches such as a greeting card from *The New Yorker*, leather-bound classic books, all packaged in gorgeous wrapping paper printed in Italy.

Price: ₹1,000 onwards

Available at: Provenance at Palladium Mall, Mumbai.





For audiophiles and lovers of music

Bang & Olufsen are the pioneers of state-of-the-art sound systems and they have come up with another design-forward speaker – BeoLab 18. This is a stylish, wireless speaker that builds on the success of Bang & Olufsen’s iconic column speaker, with many additional features that take it several steps into the future. Its Nordic hardwood casing is perhaps its most striking visual feature. Twenty-one wooden lamellas stylishly wrap around the speaker (available in solid oak, walnut or black and white composite) and the whole column stands on a cone of extruded aluminium. Like all Bang & Olufsen products, the speaker offers astounding acoustic performance, producing a clean and natural sound that fills the room without being too overwhelming. BeoLab 18 is WiSA-certified so it can simply be connected with a WiSA compliant transmitter in order to link wirelessly with any TV, Blu-ray player or set-top box.

Price: On request

Available at: BeoWorld, DLF Emporio, New Delhi.



For the discerning homeowner

Bespoke Home Jewels is New Delhi-based designer Minjal Jhaveri’s exquisite home decor and accessories brand that combines design with spirituality. Her handcrafted statement furniture incorporates gold and silver detailing as well as crystal and gemstones like rose quartz, malachite, amethyst, jade, etc. Jhaveri says that each gemstone has its own healing power and radiates positive energies in your living and workspace. Every energy-radiating stone comes with a distinct aesthetic and healing power, which, when incorporated into furniture and decor pieces, adds to the visual harmony of a space. The brand’s offerings include furniture such as centre tables, lamps, dining trolleys, bookshelves and bar units, and also tableware like dinner plates, napkin rings, table mats and snack-serving sets.

Price: ₹2,500 onwards

Available at: The Charcoal Project, Andheri, Mumbai or call +919811228856 in New Delhi.

GIFTING

For the beauty buff

Molton Brown, London's bath, body, and beauty connoisseurs, recently opened their first store in India in New Delhi. For the past 45 years, the brand has been known for its quality range of bath products, body lotions, haircare products, perfumes, and more. Their latest collection is a new launch in the Orange & Bergamot range called 'Awaken the Cult Icon'. This combines Seville orange and refreshing bergamot with neroli to create a distinctive, citrusy aroma. The range includes a handwash, hand lotion, hand cream, body wash, body lotion, eau de toilette, aroma reeds, scented candles, and linen mist. This new range pays homage to Molton Brown's original Orange & Bergamot collection that has been their signature for over 30 years. Pick up individual products or create a gift set for a friend who appreciates the finer things in life.

Price: ₹1,100 onwards

Available at: Molton Brown, DLF Emporio, New Delhi.



For the chocoholic

There's chocolate and then there's Swiss chocolate – and the difference is vast indeed. Now, you don't need to travel all the way to Switzerland to gift your loved ones handmade, luxury chocolates from Geneva. Du Rhône Chocolatier, a venerable 143-year-old brand recently opened its first store in India. Every product at their Mumbai store is handmade in Geneva and then sent out, vacuum-sealed, to India. Du Rhône's bestseller is the Mocca Glacé, which is also their oldest recipe that combines cacao butter and coffee into a decadent praline. The other standout is Coline, a 70 per cent dark chocolate ganache sprinkled with gold and silver flakes, which won the first prize at the 2011 Salon du Chocolat, one of the largest chocolate events in the world. Also recommended is Helene, a salted marzipan and caramel covered with dark chocolate. Other interesting flavours include Jaffa, which has Spanish oranges pressed and melted into a dark chocolate ganache, while Exotique combines milk chocolate with passion fruit.

Price: ₹800 onwards

Available at: Du Rhône Chocolatier boutique on Pedder Road, Mumbai or call 022-23433300 to order.



GIFTING



For the chic professional

Today's jet-setting corporate goddess is always on the move and will surely appreciate a stylish yet functional leather bag. Töhl is a home-grown brand that offers a range of handcrafted leather accessories – from wallets and handbags to satchels and backpacks. Using time-honoured crafting techniques, Töhl creates products that sport contemporary styles with beautiful finishes. Their Urbania collection has chic work accessories, with a choice of handbags, shoulder bags, valises, and wallets featuring clean lines and multiple compartments for organisation. You can also try their Getaway collection that includes totes, bucket bags, and backpacks that work well for a weekend getaway or even as a carry-on piece that your frequently-travelling friend or colleague will love.

Price: ₹1,000 onwards
Available at: www.tohl.in

For the tea connoisseur

For someone who truly appreciates tea, the luxury blends from TGL Co. (The Good Life Company) are sure to hit the spot. The company sources its teas from the places that specialise in that particular variety of tea. The white and green teas are from Japan and China, the Oolongs from Taiwan, and the black teas are sourced from Darjeeling and Sri Lanka. TGL stands out for its exotic tea blends with flowers, spices, and other botanicals. Try Geisha, a mix of Chinese and Japanese green teas blended with sesame, ginger, rose, bamboo shoots, and schisandra berries; or Spa Delight with its mix of black tea, lemongrass, peppercorns, thistle flowers, sandalwood, and more. For the sweet tooth, recommendations are Pearl of the Caribbean, which is white siu mei tea from China, flavoured with mango, pineapple, barberries, and mallow petals, and Irish Cream that blends Sri Lankan black tea with cocoa nibs and non-alcoholic Irish cream flavouring.

Price: ₹1,800 onwards
Available at: www.tglteas.com ■



All images courtesy of respective brands