



Take a bite of these holiday gifts for foodies



Food-related gifts are popular come the holiday season. According to Packaged Facts' November-December 2023 report on consumer and corporate food gifting in the United States, 50 percent of consumers had purchased food gifts for others over the 12-month report period, and 65 percent had purchased food gifts for themselves. The holidays of Chanukah and Christmas are particularly popular for giving food gifts, with nearly half of all food gifts purchased during these holiday seasons.

For a dedicated foodie in one's life, a gift that tempts the palate can be rewarding. There are delectable gifts of all flavors for the culinary-minded. Explore these possibilities when building holiday shopping lists.

Aspiring cook

Preparing meals at home allows cooks to customize flavors to meet

their personal needs. Experimenting with recipes and perfecting techniques is high on the list for budding chefs. Outfitting their kitchens with durable cooking gear, like a cast-iron skillet, Dutch oven, immersion blender, or kitchen scale can help home cooks immensely. A variety of cookbooks that feature different cuisines can provide endless inspiration.

Tempting sweets

Cooks and bakers typically fall into two distinctive camps. Baking is an art that marries creativity with science. If a foodie delights in all things sweet, focus on gifts that cater to their sugar-laden passions. Baking essentials like a stand mixer, silicone baking mats, cookie cutters, professional-grade pans, and gourmet ingredients are sure to please. Don't underestimate the appeal of beautifully packaged candies, chocolates, cookie bars, or even specialty

coffees and liqueurs when gifting food.

Global palate

Some foodies love nothing more than sampling cuisines from all around the world. While you might not be able to offer a ticket to every far-flung region, you certainly can gift flavors from these countries with a well curated gift. Think international snack boxes, a collection of sauces from different areas, unique condiments, or food baskets brimming with items from a particular country or region.

High-class dining

Some food lovers seemingly have everything. In such cases, a bottle of wine or another favorite liquor as well as a gift certificate to a local four-star restaurant might be the icing on the cake for gifting.

Ultimately the best gifts for foodies are those that recognize their passion for palate-tempting treats.

Tips for gifting coworkers



The holiday season finds people making shopping lists that include gifts for all of the special people in their lives. Such lists also feature the people with whom individuals may spend the majority of their time each day: coworkers.

Gifting coworkers can strengthen professional relationships, build camaraderie and show appreciation while on the job. A well-chosen gift can leave a lasting impression, whether it's given for a birthday, promotion or the holiday season. According to a 2019 survey from Office Depot, 70 percent of employees said their workplace had a holiday gift-giving tradition like Secret Santa or White Elephant. It is important to balance thoughtfulness with professional decorum when selecting gifts. These guidelines can help anyone navigate workplace giving.

Consider company culture. One of the first aspects of gift giving among coworkers is understanding the cul-

ture of the company. In some businesses, gift exchanges are commonplace and encouraged during team celebrations or the holiday season. In others, they may be rare or even frowned upon. It is always a good idea to check with human resources before choosing a gift, particularly for those who are new to the company.

Avoid personal gifts. When selecting gifts, consider thoughtful items that are not too personal. These can include desk organizers, coffee mugs, plants, notebooks, photo frames, or even gift cards to nearby restaurants.

Be mindful of food and beverages. When choosing to give a gift of food, be aware of any dietary restrictions and allergies the gift recipients may have. Also, while a gift of wine or another bottle of alcohol may seem fitting, one never knows if a person is abstaining from drinking, so it's best to avoid such gifts in the workplace.

Consider personalized gifts for close colleagues. Giving personal-

ized gifts to close coworkers can be a great way to show appreciation when one knows the recipient well enough. For example, if he or she can't survive without coffee each morning, then a gift of an engraved insulated coffee tumbler can be perfect. If the coworker mentions being part of a book club, a specialized bookmark or gift card to a bookstore will be fitting.

Be careful with humor. When gifting a funny present, avoid anything that can be misinterpreted or considered offensive. It's best to avoid any political humor. For those unsure about whether a gift might be taken the wrong way, skip that gift and choose another option.

Limit the cost. Some coworkers may be friends, but it is best to keep all gifts inexpensive and of the same value if the plan is to gift everyone in the department. According to the Office Depot survey, 27 percent of respondents felt meeting a spending limit is very important. The general range of gift prices at the workplace is between \$20 and \$30.

One of the best ideas for company gifting is to see who might want to participate in a gift exchange, and then everyone brings a grab bag gift. Then there isn't pressure on any one person, and gifts are distributed randomly.

Gifting between coworkers can be thoughtful and foster stronger relationships if done correctly.

Gifts for every music lover



Music provides the soundtrack for people's lives. Music evokes strong emotions and can inspire and motivate individuals while also helping them calm down and reflect. Finding the right gift for a music lover this holiday season can be a worthwhile endeavor, as the world of music offers an array of gift possibilities.

The listening experience

People who prioritize the listening experience will enjoy quality audio equipment. High-fidelity headphones or an upgraded Bluetooth speaker can enhance daily listening sessions,

allowing individuals to fully immerse themselves in their favorite tracks. Although digital music is the go-to nowadays, plenty of music lovers are vinyl enthusiasts. For them, a new record player with modern features, such as Bluetooth connectivity or record storage, would make an ideal gift. For others, a subscription to a quality audio streaming service will offer uninterrupted music on demand.

Music creator

Many music lovers enjoy creating their art. A gift that supports those endeavors will be cherished. Beginners may appreciate entry-level instruments, like a ukulele or a keyboard. Those already playing and creating might appreciate personalized sheet music, new guitar

strings and capo, drumsticks, or upgraded software for recording and mixing sound.

Devoted fan

Music fans enjoy expressing their devotion to favorite bands and other musicians. Therefore, artist merchandise

can make fitting gifts. Vintage T-shirts, framed album covers, souvenirs from past shows, and any other band-related memorabilia will keep music fans happy.

Live music

A live show is many music lovers' ideal experience.

Tickets to a concert, solo vocal night, theater show, or orchestra performance will certainly strike the right chords with music lovers.

The best gifts for music lovers are those that resonate with their passion for the songs and sounds of life.



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Thoughtful gifts for seniors



Gifts from friends and loved ones can make people feel cherished and valued. When these people are the older adults in one's life, such as parents or grandparents, gifts take on additional meaning because they can warm the hearts of every special people.

Finding unique gifts for seniors can be challenging because these individuals have been receiving gifts for many years, and many may already have everything they need. Inspiration is everything when shopping for the ideal gifts for the older adults in one's life, and the following are some categories that can serve as a springboard for what to get seniors this holiday season.

Comfort and mobility

Although people like to say, "age is just a number," getting older may come with a few aches and pains and even some limitations. Gifts like seat cushions that correct posture or easy

on/off sock helpers can be helpful. Cloud foam slippers or even a grab bar that attaches into the hood of the car door can be great gifts.

Fitness and fun

Gifts that cater to interests, well-being and more can be ideal. Active seniors may appreciate a fitness tracker or exercise equipment (yoga mat, light dumbbells, resistance bands) to facilitate fitness goals. Storage solutions for hobbies and craft items also can be fitting. See-through containers to store paints or beads or an organizer for fishing tackle can make seniors' hobbies even more enjoyable. A roll-up puzzle mat is great for puzzle enthusiasts to protect their work until completion.

Family gifts

Seniors also may appreciate gifts that touch the heart. A custom recipe cutting board that features a treasured family recipe may become a cherished

item. A customized photo calendar that features family members' birthdays and other key events also is thoughtful. A photo jewelry locket makes a nice gift for a special senior woman.

Travel gifts

Seniors typically have more time to devote to travel than younger adults, and gifts that cater to their wanderlust are a perfect fit. Digital GPS-based devices that connect to keys or luggage can help prevent lost items while traveling. Bright luggage that won't get mixed up at the baggage carousel or ergonomic neck pillows that facilitate napping on a flight also can be appreciated. Those who know destinations the seniors in their lives may want to visit can purchase plane or cruise tickets as a generous gift for someone special.

Various categories can provide ample inspiration when shopping for gifts for seniors this holiday season.

Ideal gifts for those who love the outdoors



Many people find that the great outdoors is the perfect place to spend their days. Activities run the gamut from hunting and fishing to hiking and camping. Plenty of other interests, like birdwatching or mountain biking, also maximize time spent in the outdoors.

According to the "Outdoor Participation Trends Report" from the Outdoor Industry Association, gateway activities like hiking, camping and fishing each gained more than two million new participants over the last year. There's also been a surge in participation in such activities among seniors and youth, contributing to a more multigenerational outdoors experience. There's also been participation growth among Black and Hispanic Americans, indicating long-term momentum toward equity and inclusion.

When it comes to holiday giving, tapping into

the interests of outdoor enthusiasts is a great way to offer gifts that will be used and appreciated. Here are some ideas when making holiday shopping lists.

• First aid kit: No matter the activity, having an up-to-date and well-stocked first aid kit can be a lifesaver when spending time in the outdoors. The kit should include items like splints and bandage wraps for immobilizing ankles or limbs in the event of sprains.

• Quality wool socks: Nothing can derail an outdoor adventure faster than wet, cold or blistered feet. Wool socks are a must because they are moisture-wicking, warm and comfortable.

• Insulated, waterproof jacket: A high-quality jacket for outdoor adventures that will be efficient at trapping heat, windproof and water-resistant is a thoughtful gift. Patagonia is a popular brand of outerwear, but retailers like Columbia and REI also merit consideration.

• Trail shoes or sandals: Supportive, comfortable and non-slip footwear is a given when enjoying the great outdoors. Depending on the activity, there are plenty of options from boots to hikers to trail sandals to consider.

• Waist pack: Packing light for short jaunts in the wilderness may include stocking a waist pack (also known as a fanny pack) with must-

have items. They are lightweight, comfortable and spacious enough for the essentials without getting bogged down by a backpack or another bag.

• Buff: A buff is a tube of lightweight, stretchy material that serves innumerable functions in the great outdoors. It can be used to shield the neck from the sun or wind, or to absorb sweat or keep hair out of the face. A buff can be useful on a hiking or backpacking trip, or just about any outdoor activity.

• Headlamp: Visibility is essential when enjoying the great outdoors, and many activities happen during dawn and dusk when light may be at a premium. A headlamp keeps things hands-free and sheds light on surroundings or up-close tasks, like setting up fishing hooks or field dressing game.

• Satellite communicator: A satellite communicator can keep outdoor enthusiasts safe and at ease when off the grid. Certain regions have spotty cell coverage, and satellite devices will do better at sending out messages or SOS signals should something go awry.

• Hiking poles: Telescoping hiking poles are adjustable and lightweight, and offer extra support and balance when on trails.

Outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from gifts tailored to their love of nature, wildlife and adventure.

Thinking outside-the-box for kids' gifts

Children may look forward to the holiday season more than most people. The holiday season is an opportunity for kids to tear open wrapping paper and see the amazing gifts they've received this year.

Although toys and games are typical gifts for children, there are many other items that go beyond these staples to make for unique and creative gifts that can spark imagination or boost physical activity. Shoppers can consider these outside-the-box gift ideas when shopping for youngsters this holiday season.

• 3D pen or printer: Kids can design and build amazing objects that encourage them to employ their creative side.

• Soap-making kit: These kits spur creative endeavors and ultimately produce useful finished results. Soap or perfume kits are great for hands-on sensory learning. Such gifts also teach some

components of science and math by requiring users to follow the recipe.

• Robot-building kits: Take building kits one step further with items that can move. Robot kits combine play with engineering basics.

• Interactive books: Children can solve puzzles or make choices to move the story along. These types of books may even appeal to the most hesitant readers.

• Bug collection kits: Budding entomologists can observe insects close up, and then release them back into the wild.

• Greenhouse, terrarium or bonsai tree kit: Put together the materials needed for kids to grow something special. They can nurture the plant along the way.

• Dress up trunk: Fill a box or a trunk with various dress-up costumes and accessories and let children's imaginations run wild. This will spur hours of imaginative play and crazy combina-



tions of clothing.

• Geocaching app: Let kids find objects hidden all over their neighborhoods in real-world outdoor treasure hunts. Geocaching utilizes GPS coordinates to find hidden containers, called geocaches, placed there by other players.

• Various craft supplies: Let kids create any and all of their fun ideas by compiling a kit full of various craft supplies. From beads to wooden

letters to paints to paper, there are plenty of items to be made.

• Hiking attire: Get kids out into nature by supplying the gear needed to take to the trails.

• Adopt a star or planet: Children can adopt and name a star or planet and get a certificate honoring the event.

• Time capsule: Let children store favorite items tucked away for safe keeping, where they'll remain until unveiled in the future.

Parents and other holiday shoppers can think creatively when it comes time to choose gifts for children.

Top video games for holiday gifting this year

Gaming remains a wildly popular pastime. According to TechJury, more than 3.3 billion people worldwide played video games in 2025, and gaming is a mainstream hobby across all generations. The Entertainment Software Association's 2025 Facts About the U.S. Video Game Industry report indicates the average player is 26-years-old and female and male gamers are nearly evenly split (47 percent versus 52 percent). Baby Boomers and even older generations also play video games each week and benefit from the mental stimulation and relaxation the hobby offers.

Given the popularity of gaming, gifting video games for the holidays can be a smart tactic. The following are some 2025 releases that can be wrapped up as gifts this year.

• Donkey Kong Returns HD: Players will blast out of barrels, ride mine carts, stomp enemies, and more in this popular game newly imagined for the Nintendo

Switch. Players join Donkey Kong and Diddy Kong on their wild adventures to retrieve their stolen banana horde.

• Split Fiction: In this game, a player and partner become Mio and Zoe, two writers who are trapped in a simulation of their own imaginations after a high-tech attempt to steal their creative ideas goes awry. This unlikely duo will need to work together in order to escape from their memories intact from a world filled with dragons, trolls, cyber ninjas, and robo-parking attendants. The game is available for PlayStation 5.

• Star Wars Episode 1: Jedi Power Battles: Video games often tap into nostalgia, which is perhaps why gamers were excited to find out that this popular Star Wars game was being remastered for modern consoles. This enables players to enjoy the original experience with only minor updates that include a simpler control scheme.

• Citizen Sleeper 2: Starward Vector: This role-playing game is a sequel to the popular game from 2022. Players control an escaped android with a malfunctioning body, a price on its head and no memory of the past. The goal is to get a ship, find a crew and take on contracts.

• Doom: The Dark Ages: This game is a prequel to the popular Doom experience, including Doom and Doom Eternal. It tells an epic story, and players inhabit the boots of the Doom slayer in this medieval and sinister war game.

• Elden Ring: Nightreign: This game is a standalone adventure within the Elden Ring universe. It's crafted to offer players a new gaming experience by reimagining the core attributes of play. Players join forces with others to battle the creeping night and become heroes.

Video games are popular gift ideas, and 2025 doesn't disappoint with its newest crop of exciting releases perfect for gamers of all ages.

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Did you know?

When making a holiday shopping list and checking it twice, shoppers may want to put more emphasis on experiential gifts over material items. A 2023 survey from GetYourGuide found 51 percent of people prefer some type of travel, 40 percent want to attend a show, 30 percent prefer outdoor activities, and 27 per-

cent want to visit museums. The data is showing more and more people are choosing to share experiences and create meaningful memories with the people they love rather than offering material gifts. The desire for experiential gifts is particularly strong among millennials and Gen Z.

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