

Holiday Gift Guide



For those of you who know me, I do not do anything Christmas/holiday related until the day after Thanksgiving. No decorations, no gift buying, no holiday cards. However, 2020

is a completely different year, forcing completely different behavior. Ever since the pandemic started, our supply chain has been stressed. And even though there is toilet paper back on the shelves, many other items continue to be out of stock. Inventories are low. A recent trip to Walmart had 30% of the shelves completely empty.



So what can we do differently this year in our holiday gift planning? I am teaming up with my blogging buddies as we are trying to find viable solutions to gift giving. And I do believe we must all think about it sooner rather than later. Here's just a peek into some ideas and hopefully I will generate a few more gift guides in the next few weeks. And please check out the links to other holiday gift ideas at the end of this post.

For the cook/foodie



My son, Benjamin is our family's foodie and he loves to cook. Here are his recommendations in the kitchen:



- Instant Read Thermometer. Link is [here](#)



- Good Oven Gloves. Link is [here](#)



- Nice Balsamic Vinegar~Hands down, our FAVORITE balsamic is from a very small shop in Pinetop, Arizona. This thick, delicious balsamic comes from Modena and is called the “mamma” of all balsamic. Link is [here](#). Their shop has limited hours of Wednesday-Saturday, but you can order online or give them a call. \$18.00/bottle

For the Gardener



As a gardener, I go through many things~gloves, shears, and tools.



Gardening Shears~Depending on your budget, [here](#) is a selection of shears/pruners.



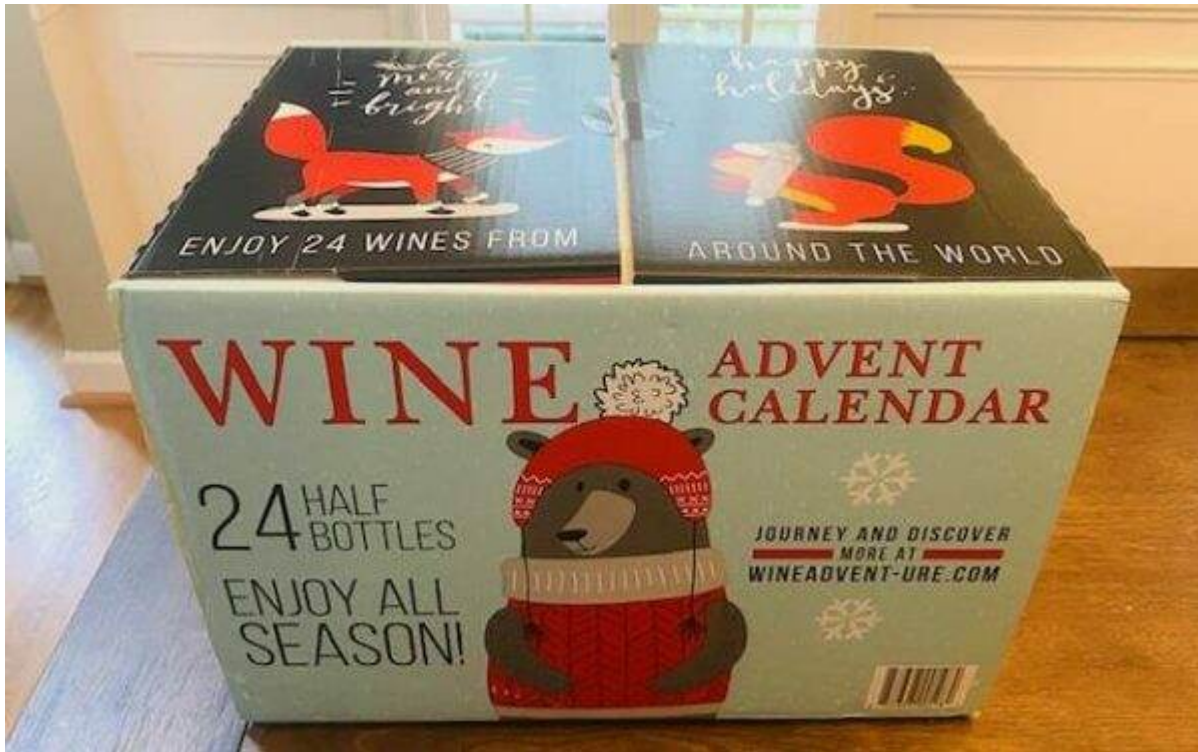
Gardening Gloves: I literally can trash a pair of gardening gloves in one day in the garden. So having a few is always recommended. This 6 pack from Amazon is a great deal. Click [here](#).



Gardening shoes: I've written about my Sloggers before. These were a Christmas present from my friend, Janie and I LOVE them. I wear a typical 7.5 women's shoe and these Sloggers are a W0 S 7 and they fit perfectly....and oh so comfortable. [Here](#)

is the link.

For the Wine Connoisseur



Costco is again featuring their wine Advent calendar this year. With 24 1/2 size bottles of wine from around the world. At \$99.00, it works out to be about \$4.00 per bottle. Wine advent calendar from Costco. Link is [here](#).



As we all know, 2020 has been an interesting year. There are SO many wine glasses out there with fun quotes for the person who loves wine and has a sense of humor. See the extensive collection [here](#).



For those wine enthusiasts who like to keep track of the wines they are enjoying, this leather bound wine journal is a lovely gift. Link is [here](#).

For the Hostess



My favorite candle is Capri Blue Volcano candle. Generally for the holidays, they change up their jar design but you cannot go wrong with this candle. If you prefer, there is also a reed diffuser.

Click the link [here](#).



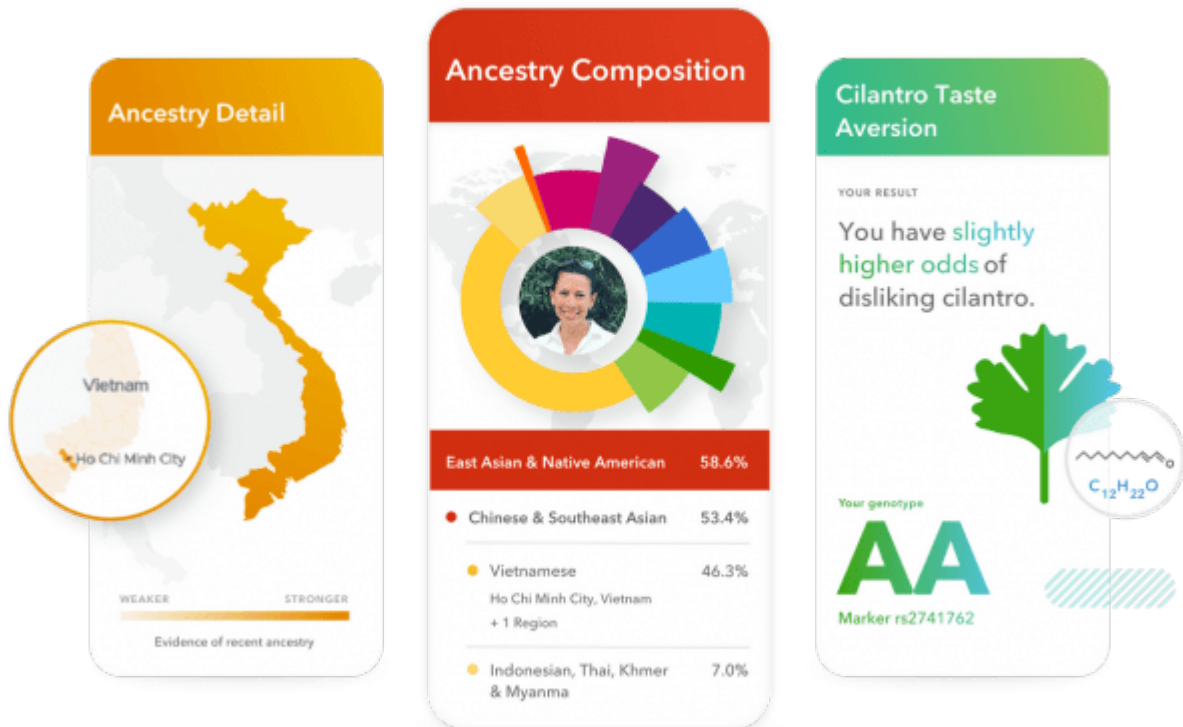
Small Prep Bowls: A gift from my friend, Connie, I use these 4" bowls all the time when cooking, entertaining or just using them for food storage. [Here](#) is an affordable set of 16 for nearly \$20.00.



I met the owner, Sherri of Mad Dash Mixes during a trip to Waco in June. So far the mixes I have tried are very good (and easy to use!). These mixes are just fabulous to have on hand if you need to whip up a dip, or a soup or dessert. Just for this blog post, Mad Dash Mixes has created a coupon for you for an additional 10% off! Any orders that you place using BELLATERRA10, will get you this discount.

Here is the [link](#) to their main page so you can peruse the numerous products they have. If you want to order the Host Bundle (Link [here](#)) it includes Warm Spinach Artichoke Dip, Cranberry Pasta Salad, Cheesy Chicken Enchilada, and Pumpkin Spice No-Bake Cheesecake. \$21.00 (and don't forget the discount code!)

Just some wonderful gift ideas:



23 and Me~for the person who is interested in real science, real data and genetic insights that can help make it easier for you to take action on your health. Especially this year, knowing more about your ancestry, genetics and health profile is a valuable gift. Link [here](#).



My personal splurge is subscribing to the quarterly subscription to My Stylish French Box. It is such a treat to get this beautifully wrapped box filled with hand picked French items four times a year. You can also do a one-time purchase or give it to someone as a gift. I highly recommend this for yourself or someone who is extra special. My Stylish French box. Link [here](#).

Help your local businesses as suggested by my friend Tevia on

her Instagram.

7:58



teviaa 10h
Aqua Glitter by instagram



Something to consider!

So Christmas shopping is going to be weird this year. Instead of boosting Amazon's profits, you could ask friends and family for a voucher for a local business that might be struggling. Bookshops, restaurants, salons, cinemas, craftstores, arts venues, whatever you're into. Hopefully we can help them still be here next year!



Send Message



As soon as I finish typing this I am going to start my holiday gift planning. I hope you enjoy today's post and please send me any other ideas you have for holiday gifts.

And now for some other gift suggestions from my blogging friends:

[Family Gift Exchange Ideas](#) from Chas Crazy Creations|[DIY Custom Gift Boxes for Christmas](#) from Design Morsels|[Holiday Gifts under \\$30](#) by Celebrate and Decorate|

Am still traveling and cannot wait to share some of my photos of this trip with you! Happy Tuesday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary".

If you enjoy this post, please share on Pinterest.



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with a small stipend for making the recommendation.