



This year's 2016 Gift Guide features an abundance of ideas for presents that are fun, practical and, in many cases, charitable. Happy shopping!

### **Charm-Ing**

Here's a new way to keep tabs on your glassware: these adorable [magnetic charms](#)!

They are made to fit on whatever you drink from, from stemmed wine glasses to beer mugs to – dare I say it? – red Solo cups!

They come in a range of designs, including holiday themes, emojis, sports, critters and crystals. These make the perfect hostess gift or a great stocking stuffer! Prices start at \$15.99 for a set of 6.

### **Keeping it Chill**

It's common to see people put a few ice cubes in their wine glass to cool it down. But there is a better way: the [Napa Wine Chiller](#).

This lightweight, stainless steel sphere is designed to keep your wine at a consistent temperature and stays out of the way in the bottom of the glass. Even better, 15% of proceeds from sales go to the MD Anderson Cancer Center to support men's cancer research.

The site also sells whiskey chillers, glassware and other accessories for the non-wine inclined. Currently on sale for \$22.49.

### **Give Hope**

It's impossible to resist these festive, sparkly bottles of bubbly from [ONEHOPE](#)!

The company's motto is, "Every bottle makes an impact" and giving is woven into their DNA.

Half the proceeds from sales of this sparkly sparkler go to the ONEHOPE Foundation. Other causes benefit as well. For example, their Santa Barbara Reserve Chardonnay (\$23.99) helps fund research for Alzheimer's and the California Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18.99) helps fund therapy for children with autism.

But the company is equally committed to crafting good juice: Robert Mondavi, Jr., serves as their winemaker.

There is a huge assortment of wine to choose from as well as gift baskets and a smattering of non-wine items. Prices vary.

### **A Bubbly Book**

*But First, Champagne* is the book you didn't know you needed: it's a [fun read](#) on the history of Champagne – both the wine and the region. It includes profiles of the top estates, how the industry has changed over the centuries, and how the wine's popularity has changed over the years.

The author is David White, who blogs as the Terroirist and (full disclosure!) once let me interview him.

### **Make It Yours**

Why give an ordinary bottle of wine when you can customize one?

Evermine makes gorgeous [holiday labels](#) that are super easy to put onto your favorite bottle of vino before gifting it.

The site allows you to create your own design, or pick from a variety of templates for the holidays, engagements or weddings, birthdays, or just for fun. It's a great way to share the celebration with friends & family!

Prices start at \$9.99 for a sheet of six labels.

### **An Uncorked Box**

Up your "box of the month" game with the [Uncorked Box](#). It arrives once a month filled with wine accessories based around a particular theme. The November box, for example, included "Happy Wines Giving" cups and name card holders made from wine corks.

Other items might range from the practical, like bottle openers or glassware, to the fun, such as dark chocolate or lip shimmers made from wine.

Available via Cratejoy. Each box is \$30 plus applicable tax and shipping.

### **Simi Cookbook**

Established in 1876, Simi is among the longest, continually operating wineries in the US. The winery also boasts a long string of female winemakers, starting with Isabelle (Simi) Heigh, daughter of founder Giuseppe Simi, who took over the estate when he died in 1904.

The winery has just released a cookbook that includes a lovely history of this estate, an informative chapter on food and wine pairing, and over two dozen recipes (I dare you to resist the bacon tater tots!), organized by season.

You can order directly [from the winery](#) and get the book plus a bottle of their Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon for \$39.00, or order the book without the wine for \$20 [from Amazon](#).

## **WineBuff**

For those obsessed with keeping their wine glasses spotless, [WineBuff](#) is for you! This microfiber towel keeps you glassware clean – but also helps you learn. You see, WineBuff features maps of Napa and Sonoma that show the region’s wineries and AVAs as well as sommelier-written notes on the areas. The towel that cleans and educates...who knew??  
\$17.99 from Soiree Home.

## **Stop It!**

The Sipsee is a cute little [bottle stopper](#) – and a remarkably versatile one! It is designed to fit into just about any bottle from water to wine, though it seems like a particularly awesome idea for kids at the playground or parties.

The stopper comes in a variety of colors with a small protective case and a set of stickers that lets you personalize your stopper. It can be reused hundreds of times, and recycled after that. Prices start at \$7.95 per stopper.

## **The Gift of a Bottle**

Need something last minute? The easy thing is head into the wine shop and grab a bottle or two for your boss, hostess or friend. But a bottle of what?

The folks at Dimensional Insight have crunched the data from the Beverage Marketing Corporation and come up with a top five list of the best selling wine types in the country.

So if you’re not sure what the recipient likes, analyst Bernard Seban suggests chardonnay or cabernet: “Every year, Chardonnay has far and away been the top-selling wine. Cabernet

Sauvignon is number two, with Merlot, Pinot Grigio and Pinot Noir rounding out the top five, which have remained fairly consistent over the last several years.”

And there you have it. Happy shopping, and happy holidays!!!  
gift, holiday, Mondavi, wine