

Holiday shopping guide: food

By *Kate Antoniadis*

Stumped for holiday gift ideas? Look no further—we've got plenty of ideas for the friends and family members on your shopping list, whether they like to experiment in the kitchen or just, well, eat!

Chocolate is, of course, a reliable go-to present for so many holiday gift-givers, and for good reason. Besides the fact that almost everyone loves the stuff, you can customize your gift giving by choosing whether to go for quantity or quality (or, potentially, both!). That means you can decide whether to stop by the grocery store and grab one of those five-pound Hershey bars, buy some fancy hot chocolate mix and marshmallows, or pick up some handmade chocolate treats from a shop like Grand

Cru. While we acknowledge that chocolate isn't the most original gift you could present to someone at the holidays, we can almost guarantee you won't be hearing any complaints. If you want to give a gift that's perfect for sharing (hint, hint), check out the delicious pies from the School of the Holy Childhood's Special Touch Bakery. The bakery is a longtime local favorite, and this season's list of pie

offerings includes chocolate chip and fudge brownie.

The cooks and bakers in your life are sure to enjoy working their culi-

These two pages: An assortment of holiday goodies from Tasteful Additions, top, and Grand Cru, bottom



nary magic with some gourmet ingredients and mixes that you hunt down for them (and hey, they might even show their thanks by inviting you to dinner). Choose some oils and vinegars from Tasteful Additions in Pittsford, or give them an indoor herb growing kit. If you're buying for a friend or family member who isn't exactly an expert in the kitchen, pick up a few soup mixes from Healthy Sisters' Soup & Bean Works paired with bread from Baker Street Bakery, some pierogis from The Pierogie Guy, or baking mixes from Stonewall Kitchen (not local, but easy to find in the area). Top it all off with a crowd favorite—cheese-cake from Cheesy Eddie's.

If you feel like you too often fall back on chain-restaurant gift cards as an easy gift option, perhaps try something closer to home this year, such as the gift of a share in a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)—Wickham Farms and The Good Food Collective are two local examples—or a gift certificate to

the Rochester Public Market. The small, wooden Market Gift Tokens are \$5 each and can be redeemed at more than 100 vendors at the Public Market. Bonus: They never expire.

When you can't decide on a single "big" gift, a handy trick is to gather a lot of little ones. It'd be easy enough to browse through the grocery store aisles to

assemble a basket of tasty goodies, but if you have a little more time, try to put together a collection of local specialties. There's so much to choose from in the Rochester area—you could include some local maple syrup, honey, ice cream, biscotti, beer, wine from Leonard Oakes Estate Winery or any of the spots on the Keuka Wine Trail, coffee, or sauces from Dino-

saur Bar-B-Que or Sticky Lips BBQ.

Happy shopping!

Kate Antoniadis is a freelance writer/editor whose main gig is serving as editor of Corporette. A Rochester native, she lives in Brighton with her husband, son, and four cats.

