

## Holiday Gifts: Food & Kitchen

Written by Arizona Foothills Magazine

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Some people prefer chocolate to cars, gourmet gift baskets to getaways and wine to watches. Here are our top restaurant, appliance and gift picks for your favorite Foodie.

[Hall Wine and Art Experience, Neiman Marcus, \\$20,000](#)



For foodies and winers, this Hall Wine and Art Experience, put together by Neiman Marcus' fantasy gift team, is a first-class gift. The giftee and a guest will learn organic, artisan winemaking firsthand from pros Kathryn and Craig Hall, tour the estates, enjoy tastings of exclusive private vintages and have the singular chance to create your own personal vintage in a private blending session led by HALL Winemaker Steve Leveque. The evening will be topped off by a private gourmet dinner and wine event in the Rutherford Estate Cave. Accommodations are at the Auberge Resorts Calistoga ranch with customized rooms- the giftee will look forward to a special delivery of their custom-blended wine, bottled and delivered after having aged in French oak barrels.

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[FOX Restaurant Concept Gift Card, FOXRC.com, pricing varies](#)



Mexican, Modern American, Pizza, Steak. Whatever strikes your giftee's fancy can be savored at one of Sam Fox's 12 award-winning restaurants, making a FOX Restaurant Concepts gift card the ultimate gift for a desert-dweller!

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[AJ's Fine Foods Wine, Gift Baskets and more, AJ's Fine Foods, pricing varies](#)



You can't go wrong with a bottle of bubbly, pinot or cab! AJ's Fine Foods offers more than 1,500 labels from the world's best vineyards. Just ask a Cellar Master for tips and tricks! The luxury grocer also offers unbelievable gift baskets and florals that can be delivered to your holiday honey.

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[White Chocolate Brownie, White Chocolate Grill, \\$7.59](#)

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You didn't think they grilled their white chocolate, did you? White Chocolate Grill offers four unbelievable white chocolate desserts and countless flavorful entrees, apps and cocktails. Take your foodie to White Chocolate Grill, or fill out the order form online and send a gift card!

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[Fleming's New Year's Celebration. Fleming's Steakhouse](#), beginning at \$69.95 per person



Ready to go over-the-top this New Year's Eve? Always! Fleming's Steakhouse is offering the ultimate New Year's Celebration, on December 31, January 1 and January 2. Partiers and steak experts alike will take part in a special dinner menu by Chef Russell Skall (guests can choose a filet and lobster tail or Maine lobster and seafood), paired with a glass of Veuve Cliquot and complimentary wine pairings. Hello, 2010!

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[Handpainted Holiday S'mores. Dean and DeLuca](#), \$48



Who wouldn't love these works of art? San Francisco's Two Hearts Bakery puts light and fluffy marshmallows on crispy, crunchy cinnamon graham crackers and dunks in rich chocolate- each confection is then hand-painted in silver and gold accents. There you have it, Handpainted Holiday S'mores!

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[KitchenAid Mixer. Crate & Barrel](#), \$349



Mix it up! The best tool a kitchenista could ask for, the KitchenAid Stand Mixer will lend a strong 325-watt hand to cake-mixing and dough-hooking. Add-ons are available, like ice cream maker attachments, pasta cutters and more, making this your one-stop culinary shop.

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[Fairytale Brownies. Brownies.com](#), prices and sizes vary

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CHOCOLATE EXPLOSION! Whether it's a dozen sprites (mini-brownies) or a brownie extravaganza, Arizona-based Fairytale Brownies are a super sweet gift to open. Chosen by AFM as a favorite gift for friends and clients, these little wonders are loved by all.

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[Chocofin Chocolatiers](#), [Chocofin](#), prices and gifts vary



Ah, chocolate! There are a few things Louis and Denise Mirabella, owners of Chocofin Chocolatiers and I have in common, but it all boils down to one thing: a passion for great tasting chocolate. The other is our Fountain Hills zip code. As a frequent visitor, I always admire the beautifully crafted chocolates displayed behind glass—clearly out of reach from me thank goodness—but, always left deliberating between over another roasted raspberry or a chocolate-covered cherry. -Christine Whitton

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[Calphalon Unison Sear Nonstick Wok](#), [Williams-Sonoma](#), about \$100



Over the past year, I've become somewhat of an expert on cooking Asian cuisine (or so I'd like to think.) I'd love to try out my new-found skills with this restaurant-quality wok. -Amy Strand

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[Wild Animal Crackers](#), [Rich Chocolates](#), \$11



These decidedly more adult animal “crackers” are made of chocolate, namely dark chocolate with coriander and black sesame, milk chocolate with praline wafer, and white chocolate with pistachio. Did I mention that chocolate is my favorite thing on earth? -Melissa Larsen

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