

# Food to tempt the tastebuds

Enjoying food is a massive part of Christmas. From the lunchtime turkey to the cake while watching the Queen's speech, not much of the day goes by without a plate of something tasty being passed around. It is understandable then that 'foodies' relish this time of year. Give them even more to get excited about with our guide to gourmet gifts for people who are passionate about their nosh...



■ Lovers of fine wine and craftsmanship will fall in love with the Piper-Heidsieck Rare 2002.

The sparkling crystal clear yellow gold champagne won gold at the International Wines and Spirits Competition and the International Wine Challenge. It is also incased in this gorgeous bottle detailed with gold leaf. £139.95 from [www.MasterofMalt.com](http://www.MasterofMalt.com).



■ Gordon Ramsay's *Ultimate Cookery Course* is all about giving home cooks the desire, confidence and inspiration to hit the stoves and get cooking, with over 120 modern, simple and accessible recipes.

It is a lifetime's worth of expertise from one of the world's finest chefs distilled into a beautiful book.

£25, published by Hodder and available at Waterstones ([www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)).

■ What goes hand-in-hand with champagne? Smoked salmon of course. East Clandon-based John Ross Jr offers laterally sliced cold smoked salmon gift packs which can be sent out with a personal gift message. £24.65 from [www.johnrossjr.com](http://www.johnrossjr.com).



■ A hamper filled with delicious gourmet food and drink is a great way to spread Christmas cheer to your foodie friends.

Caracoli, in Guildford, offers three hampers priced at £45, £65 and £110 (excluding postage). Or you can take advantage of the hamper service, which allows you to choose the food and drink you know the recipient will love. For inspiration, visit [www.caracoli.co.uk](http://www.caracoli.co.uk).

■ A little green box is often synonymous with a particular jewellery brand but foodies will be just as happy to see this one under the Christmas tree.

For the box contains Claridge's famous Christmas pudding, created from the same recipe used for more than a century in the hotel's famous kitchens. Part of Claridge's tradition, the hotel's pastry chefs have created 150 limited-edition puddings to be enjoyed at home. The pudding is presented in a white china bowl and is wrapped in muslin cloth.

Puddings priced £50 (1kg) or £35 (600g) can be bought from the hotel or online at [www.claridges.co.uk](http://www.claridges.co.uk).



■ Appeal to your nostalgic side (or teach the kids about sweets you used to love) with this Traditional Favourites Sweet Tower. £9.99 from Squires ([www.squiresgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.squiresgardencentre.co.uk)).



■ This Sapore di Tartufo provides any budding chef with everything they need to add the luxurious touch of truffle to their dishes.

It includes a whole preserved black summer truffle alongside jars of truffle honey, truffle salt and truffle butter. £22.95 from Carluccios ([www.carluccios.com](http://www.carluccios.com)).

■ This elegant hat box of festive truffles, pralines and caramels features creamy truffles with mulled wine, gingerbread, rum, raisin and port, zesty clementine, Christmas cake, salted caramel and more. £25 from Hotel Chocolat ([www.hotelchocolat.co.uk](http://www.hotelchocolat.co.uk)).



■ Billington's Unrefined Sugar has partnered with baking connoisseur Bea, of the eponymous Bea's of Bloomsbury, to create these limited edition Christmas Pudding Marshmallows.

Made with a dash of brandy, a sprinkling of cinnamon and nutmeg, a pinch of ground clove and cardamom, fresh ginger, a star anise petal and Billington's Unrefined Golden Caster Sugar.

The result is a moreish marshmallow that not only tastes of Christmas but has the wonderful aroma of it too. £5 from [www.beasofbloomsbury.com](http://www.beasofbloomsbury.com).

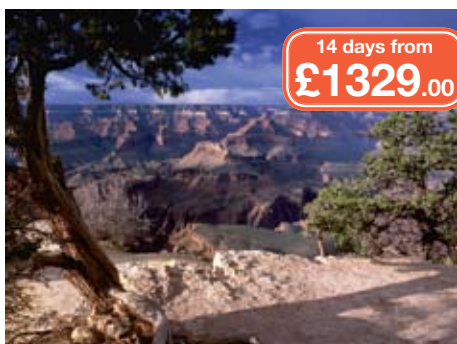


**informer**

## Fantastic Value Holidays

**Newmarket Holidays**

ESCORTED HOLIDAYS



14 days from  
**£1329.00**

### America's Golden West

Departs Apr 2013 - May 2014

The glamour of Las Vegas, the awesome beauty of the breathtaking Grand Canyon - carved over millennia - and the sun-kissed towns and cities of the California coast - including sparkling 'LA' and beautiful San Francisco.

#### Tour highlights and inclusions

- Stunning San Francisco
- Beautiful Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey
- Drive the Pacific Coast Highway
- Overnight in Morro Bay
- Hollywood & Los Angeles
- Glittering Las Vegas
- The awesome Grand Canyon
- Return flights from Heathrow airport
- Twelve nights' accommodation at good quality hotels
- Comfortable coach travel
- Tour Manager services



9 days from  
**£999.00**

### Elvis Presley's Memphis, New Orleans & Nashville

Departs Feb 2013 - May 2014

Join us for an unforgettable journey - full of memorable highlights - through America's musical heartland!

#### Tour highlights and inclusions

- Montgomery, Alabama
- New Orleans - the laid-back 'Big Easy'
- Visit Elvis' birthplace
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Nashville - Country Music capital
- Journey through sleepy Alabama
- 'Chattanooga Choo-Choo' station hotel!
- Return flights from Heathrow airport
- Seven nights' accommodation in comfortable hotels
- Coach travel throughout
- Tour Manager services



8 days from  
**£949.00**

### Four-star Canada's Maple Leaf Trail

Departs Mar 2013 - Jun 2014

Exciting cities - Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Québec - breathtaking scenery, wide open spaces and 'big skies', and one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders, ensure the popularity of this wonderful holiday.

#### Tour highlights and inclusions

- Return transatlantic flights from Gatwick to Toronto
- Six nights' four-star accommodation at comfortable touring hotels in Toronto (3 nights) and Montréal (3 nights)
- A full day visit to the spectacular Niagara Falls
- A full day visit to Québec City
- Scenic drive on the 'Maple Leaf Trail' from Toronto to Montréal and Québec, via Ottawa
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- The services of a Tour Manager



16 days from  
**£1899.00**

### 5★ Alaska Cruise & the Canadian Rockies

Departs Apr - Aug & Sep 2013

See and experience some of North America's greatest natural wonders on this truly extraordinary tour.

#### Tour highlights and inclusions

- Fly to Calgary
- Banff, Rockies' capital
- Lake Louise & Icefields Parkway to Jasper
- Sun Peaks resort
- Sparkling Vancouver
- Seven-night cruise, with calls at Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan
- Glacier Bay
- Return flights from Gatwick airport
- Seven nights' room only hotel accommodation
- Comfortable coach travel
- Services of a Tour Manager