

ST FOOD AND DRINK

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.



■ 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).

■ 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.



■ 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.

■ 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.



■ 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).

■ 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).



■ 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.



■ 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).

SURREYTIMES

Fantastic Value Holidays

COACH HOLIDAYS

Newmarket Holidays



4 days from £175.00

Monet's Garden, Rouen & Paris

Departs 28 June & 6 September 2013

A visit to French Impressionist Claude Monet's former house and beautiful gardens in the charming village of Giverny, is the highlight of this great-value weekend. The house is now a museum where reproductions of the artist's paintings are displayed. You'll also spend time in Paris and visit the beautiful city of Rouen.

Price includes

- Return coach travel from your local area
- Return ferry/Eurotunnel crossings
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation at the three-star Best Western Mauresse Hotel, St. Quentin (or similar)
- A visit to Paris and Rouen
- A visit to Giverny, including admission to Monet's House and Gardens
- The services of a Tour Manager



4 days from £119.95

German Valley Superdeal

Departs 15 March 2013

Bring a cheer to the grey of winter and join us on this absolutely superb value coach-inclusive break to the scenic German Valleys, a land of fairytale castles, picture-book towns and villages set beside the mighty Rhine, and backed by slumbering vineyards. With accommodation in a friendly, welcoming hotel - with half-board and 'Happy Hour Free Bar' option - and chances to join some wonderful excursions in the company of our Tour Manager.

Price includes

- Return coach travel from your local area
- Return ferry/Eurotunnel crossings
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation in a traditional hotel in the Rhine Valley
- The services of a Tour Manager

York, Whitby & Scarborough

One of the UK's most varied and scenic counties, with a glorious coastline, interesting cities, quaint villages and stunning scenery, a holiday in Yorkshire is always memorable! You'll stay in the seaside resort of Scarborough and enjoy two full day included excursions.

Departs 18 March 2013

5 days from £215.00

The Cheltenham Festival

Experience the excitement of the National Hunt's Blue Riband event, on this great value two-day coach break. With admission to the meeting on two days included in the price, with the highlight being the Cheltenham Gold Cup, plus one night's accommodation, this break is a sure bet!

Departs 14 March 2013

2 days from £169.00

Valentine Weekend in Paris

Don't miss this great value Valentine's Weekend in Paris, where the distinctive atmosphere of this much loved city is sure to make this a romantic weekend to remember.

Departs 15 February 2013

3 days from £135.00

Alfie Boe in Concert

Join us at one of the musical events of the year, as 'Britain's Favourite Singer' Alfie Boe performs classic arias, songs from the musicals and Neapolitan songs taken from his popular repertoire.

Departs 22 March 2013

2 days from £129.00

For your FREE brochure, complete this coupon & send to: Newmarket Promotions Ltd, FREEPOST KT2720, Worcester Park, KT4 8BR (NO STAMP REQUIRED) **SUR**

Tick brochure(s) required: Monet's Garden, Rouen & Paris - MGR German Valley Superdeal - GSD York, Whitby & Scarborough - YOR The Cheltenham Festival - HRW Valentine Weekend in Paris - PVD Alfie Boe in Concert - AUV

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