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Short Orders Gift Guide

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So here we are, in that retail wasteland between Thanksgiving and the major "gifty" holidays ... and you're out of ideas. You've been from store to store, crawled the malls and even braved a megamart or two. And still you're not done.

You, my harried friend, have a foodie on your gift list, one of those growing number of folks for whom food and cooking are not just necessities, but cherished hobbies or even professions. These are people for whom the old Hickory Farms sausage box will not do ... they get their sausage custom-made directly from the slaughterhouse. You don't dare get them a set of barbecue tools ... they have one, custom-made to fit their hands and stamped with their initials.

OK, perhaps I'm overstating a bit. Not every foodie is a gadget freak or obsessed with ultra-gourmet foods, but they *are* savvy folks, appreciative of true quality and uniqueness in foods or tools.

So, read on, and find the great stuff that will have everyone envying your ability to come up with gift ideas!

A few months back, I told you about [Mikey's Marinade](#), a fantastic meat dunk created by a sommelier that shows true creative flair. It's not sweet ... not spicy ... not exactly, anyway. The best way I can describe it is that it matches with meat the way a good sommelier will match a wine with a meal. It complements without overpowering, and works with the meat rather than against it to bring out flavors. I've used it with beef and pork, and it is simply outstanding.

Now, showing his realization that his customers are a pretty rabidly carnivorous bunch, Michael Romano has created [gift sets](#) that will delight any meat maven on your gift list. There is the simplicity of the three-bottle gift box, with three containers of Mikey's Marinade presented in a nice gift box.

The next step up is the Carver's Delight, with three bottles of marinade, a Catskill Craftsmen cutting board and a Norpro steel baster.

And if you *really* want to make your favorite steakhound happy, go for the ultimate, the Crave to Carve Ultimate gift basket, which has the marinade, the cutting board and the Norpro baster along with a set of 4 ½-inch Laguiole steak knives, which are so classy they'll flat refuse to cut anything cheaper than ribeye. I jest, of course, but they're darned good blades.