



# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

## WHAT TO BUY

# FOOD LOVERS



▲ The snow is falling — the weather outside may even be said to be frightening — but nothing keeps your loved ones safe and warm like a big stack of buttermilk pancakes topped with pure maple syrup. A bag of pancake mix and a bottle of syrup from Brown Family Farm is \$14.99 at The Andersons.



▲ Everyone loves ribbon candy. It's fun, it's brightly colored, and it feels great on the tongue. Best of all, this old-fashioned favorite is wonderfully affordable. Russell Stover Ribbon Candy is \$3.99 at Rite Aid.

Think of it as superfancy Cracker Jack: Harry & David's Moose Munch is an irresistible blend of popcorn, caramel, chocolate, and nuts. But beware — it's habit-forming. The Fresh Market, \$19.99 for an 8-ounce bucket.



▲ They aren't as good as they used to be, but you could argue that any Frango mints are better than no Frango mints at all. The salty chocolate favorites come in an assortment of flavors. Macy's, \$14.99 for a 1-pound box.

Ever since chestnuts have been roasting on open fires, people have been celebrating Christmas with gifts of food. They're a great way to show you care with an individualized, thoughtful present certain to bring a smile to your friends' and loved ones' lips as they happily munch away.

— Daniel Neman  
Blade Food Writer

▼ It's the gift that's healthy, but with a little sweetness. Fruit baskets are always welcome, especially when they also have a light sprinkling of candy mixed in. At Kroger for \$24.99 and \$29.99.



▲ For the serious wine lover on your list, why not one of the best bottles in the world? A single bottle of 2005 Chateau Margaux Premier Grand Cru Classe is available at Joseph's Beverage Center for \$1,100. If you want to go just a little less pricey, the store also has two bottles of 2005 Chateau Mouton Rothschild for \$1,000 apiece.



▲ Pistachios are surely one of the most elegant of nuts, and they become even more sophisticated when offered in a variety of flavors. A Farmer's Market brand pistachio sample tray includes natural, garlic and onion, jalapeno, red, and chili-lime flavors for \$22.99 at Giant Eagle.



▲ For some people, especially Germans, it just wouldn't be Christmas without stollen, the traditional sweet bread stuffed full of nuts and rum-soaked fruit. It has been a favorite holiday treat since the Middle Ages. Frau Helga's Dresden Butter Stollen at Walt Churchill's Market, \$6.99, \$9.99, and \$17.99.



▲ The salted caramel craze shows no sign of slowing down, and why should it? One tantalizing variation is Salted Caramel Hot Chocolate Mix, which you can even get packaged together with top-quality marshmallows in vanilla or chocolate. Williams-Sonoma, \$19.95 or with marshmallows for \$33.

\*Prices subject to change during season.

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