

Food+Drink

EDITED BY ALLISON SAUNDERS SEND TIPS TO LIFE@THECOAST.CA

Homemade for Christmas

Take the food (and drink) lover on your holiday shopping list on a tour of the city's farmers' markets, by stuffing their stocking with snacks, sweets, and preserves from local vendors. BY MELISSA BUOTE | PHOTO LENNY MULLINS

SWEET

Luscious fleur de sel caramels from Cocoa and Honey (Historic Farmers' Market, 1496 Lower Water Street) will make an impression—the stunning dark chocolate pinecones will blow minds; gingerbread cake balls and darling sugar cookies from Karyn's Cookies & Treats (Alderney Landing Farmers' Market, 2 Ochterloney Street) are homey, sweet holiday treats; sacks of delicate macarons, meringues and crisp cookies from Gourmandises Avenue (Seaport Farmers' Market, 1209 Marginal Road) are easy stocking stuffers.



SAVOURY

The warm and earthy tang of Sour Beast krauts from Off Beet Farm (Alderney) perhaps paired with salty-sour Cabbage Patch Kimchi (Forum Farmers' Market, 2901 Windsor Street) would be perfect for fans of the fermented; the sweet scorch of Peach Habanero Hot Sauce from Gold Island Bakery (Historic) will keep your loved ones warm; Red Wine Basil or Hot Lemon vinegars come in sun-catching bottles from Tangled Garden (Seaport); and don't forget the sweet, zingy dressings from Hope Blooms (Seaport).



SPICED

Cold weather calls for a heated embrace from masala and curry blends from The Spiceman, Costas Halavrezos (Historic); go festive with tingly peppermint, warming ginger or another herbal tea from Teageek'ery (Forum); get literal with the aromatic mix of cloves, orange, and cinnamon in the Tea Brewery's Country Christmas (Forum).



SPREADABLE

Sweet, boozy Tidal Bay Wine Jelly and Beer Jelly from Helen B's (Seaport) and Sweet and Tangy Peppery Jelly from Pat's Preserves will make any holiday cheese plate a little sweeter; Dragon's Breath from That Dutchman (Seaport) is another natural; Scotian Bee's sweet chili honey (Alderney) will add welcome heat to any pantry this holiday.



SIPPABLE

A surprise gift of Bulwark's limited edition Winter Cider would be a nice way to warm up after a cold winter walk; give a gift that will keep on giving with a Growler from Boxing Rock (Alderney, Seaport); indulge in a bright, piney bottle of gin from Steinhart Distillery (Alderney); forget magazines, give the gift of a lemonade subscription from Lemon Dogs (Alderney).

