



fashion



debra's holiday gift picks

My absolute favorite time of year is here, and as Christmas time approaches, I am going to recommend a few things that I have on my list or that I will be purchasing as a gift for someone else. Every year, it seems as if Christmas comes a bit earlier. Decorations in the stores are displayed earlier, the sales begin earlier, and that means the thoughts and excitement begin earlier. Actually, this is a good thing. When you buy earlier, the gift is more thoughtful. It seems that as time runs out, the more frenzied we become, and then we buy whatever is available at the last minute. This year, get ahead of the game. Not only will you have time to relax and enjoy the holiday, but you will find great joy in selecting gifts that are sure to please even the pickiest friend, co-worker or relative.

With these gift ideas, you will excitedly await seeing the delight of the person who is receiving your special gift; because it will be personally hand-selected by the person who knows them best – you! Likewise, you will be receiving something you will love -- because you added it to your list ... and I promise you will not be disappointed.

The secret to selecting the perfect gift is to know what the person enjoys doing, and a little about their personality. I have searched and searched to share with you gifts that will be unique, appreciated and loved.

Jo Malone's Tea Box Candle Collection



For those that love entertaining and find great joy in inviting friends and family over for dinner, Jo Malone's Tea Box Candles Collection Set is the perfect gift. Elegantly understated, this collection begins with the beautiful presentation of an iconic crème-colored gift box, tied with grosgrain ribbon. Inside, even more delight is experienced as an aroma of Parma Violets and sweet almond macaroon escapes and fills the room.

Candles are always on the top of wish lists, so if you are looking for something very special for that someone very special – Jo Malone's Tea Box Candle Collection is the gift. The presentation of this gift will impress the receiver for years to come. One of my favorites, and I give it five stars. Available at fine department stores everywhere -- \$395.

La Mer – The Signature Collection

Frequently, I get asked the same question: does it really matter what skin care you use? My answer is always the same – YES! If I was only able to use one beauty product – It would be La Mer. You read so often how it is favored by those who demand only the best and are willing to pay for it. And that's for one reason, plain and simple – it works! I have used it for many years and will for many more. Still, this is one of my favorite gifts to receive. Each year, La Mer offers holiday packages that I call "little miracles"! My favorite is The Signature Collection. Jet-setters will revel in this limited edition collection featuring introductory/travel sizes of the most popular products including Crème de la mer, lifting face serum and eye concentrate. The perfect gift for the woman that has everything! Presented in La Mer's Signature, gift-ready box. Available at fine department stores everywhere -- \$240.

VIVACE – BY H2pro

How can you look fabulous in those designer jeans if your hair is not cooperating? Yes, hair tools are a must on the beauty wish list this season. H2pro recently launched the Vivace one-inch superior flat



iron that makes it possible to have healthier, shinier and more vibrant hair without the damage. This is one of my favorites because it allows me to have the hair my stylist gives me in the chair when I get home. This flat iron allows you to style your hair

in loose curls, tight curls, waves or straight in a matter of minutes. I also love the flexibility, with a variable temperature setting from 140 degrees to 450 degrees. Look great in those jeans, or that suit or dress, with hair that says, "I am ready to take on the world!" You can order the Vivace by calling 1-800-896-7728 or by emailing info@h2proshop.com -- \$150.



Lola Fragrance by Marc Jacobs

Most of us get some type of fragrance under the tree every year. This year, Marc Jacobs has the scent that will be sold out everywhere – Marc Jacobs' Lola. Fresh off the runway, this fragrance features a colorful flower top that is a perfect replica of the hats featured recently in his collection. And the scent is fresh yet sexy, totally capturing the free spirit of today's sexy and modern girl. Smell it once, and you're hooked. Available in fine department stores -- \$65.

Make this Christmas the most special ever with a little skill, a lot of creativity and early shopping. That way, you can relax and enjoy the holiday! My wish is that my list helps you put together your wish list, or helps you find a special gift for someone on your list.

May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

Remember, beauty gets the attention and personality gets the heart. You can visit my Web site at www.DebraKennedyShow.com or e-mail me at debra@elevatecharlotte.com.

Debra Kennedy, *Fashion Editor*