



GIFTS WITH PURPOSE

by KIERA
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Everyone knows a pair of hop-along boots and a pistol that shoots is the wish of Bonny and Ben. But what do you get for family and friends when the sights and sounds of Christmas have suddenly snuck up on you?

Here are some of my favorite gifts for anyone on your naughty or nice list.

ALEX AND ANI BRACELETS

For high school aged girls to adults, Alex and Ani bracelets are a gift with meaning. These simple wire charm bracelets are made from sustainable recyclable material and are all made in America. Alex and Ani products are thoughtfully made and created with empowerment purposes. The "Charity By Design" line even gives back to various charities according to their charm design. Because each Alex and Ani charm holds a specific meaning and, according to the brand's motto, is infused with "positive energy technology," giving an Alex and Ani bracelet as a gift shows thoughtfulness and purpose. Come 2015, Philadelphia will have its own Alex and Ani store but for now, you can purchase these bracelets at *Dandelion in Ardmore*, *Verde 13 on South 13th Street in Philadelphia* or *Free Reign Boutique in Conshohocken*.

WE HEART PHILLY

For Philadelphia specific gifts, look no further than our own streets. Decorative Philly products are great for all ages and available in cute patterns and designs that are in no way "gift shoppy". Shop "We Heart Philly" online or visit *Verde 13 on South 13th Street* for totes, necklaces and ornaments. Try *Marcie Blaine* chocolates that come in a "Philadelphia Series" with scenes of the skyline, Liberty Bell and soft pretzels printed on delicious artisanal chocolates (also at *Verde*). *The AIA Bookstore and Design Center at 1218 Arch Street* has great Philadelphia themed odds and ends, not to mention thought-provoking toys for kids of all ages (AKA I want to play with them too!). Last but not least, you can find some unique handmade Philadelphia gifts on *Etsy*. com. I love "Crossed Out Creations"

for wire necklaces shaped in the form of the skyline, state or Liberty Bell.

ADULTS ONLY

For gifts for a more mature crowd, what is better than local spirits and cigars? Check out *Tired Hands Brewing Company* in Ardmore for unique handcrafted beer that you can take home in a rustic jug. For local wine, *Penns Woods Wine* is a great gift for a Philadelphia wine enthusiast. When it gets warmer, you can even take a tour of the winery in Chadds Ford if you so choose (perhaps a homemade gift card for a day spent at the winery would be a great addition to this gift). Or give the gift of great cigars with *Holt's Cigar Company's "Cigar of the Month Club."* This gift will last well past the holidays. What could be better?

RESERVATIONS

For the foodies in your life, gift cards to your recipients' favorite Philly restaurant make the perfect gift. Purchase a *Starr Gift Card* or *Garces Gift Card* and open the doors to your loved one's taste buds, enabling them to choose any restaurant by that restaurateur. It's a great gift when you just can't pick a place.

RUN FOR ANOTHER

For the fitness enthusiast in your life, *Janji* activewear will help kickstart any New Year's resolution while giving back. For every item Janji sells, \$4 is donated to food and water causes around the world. Each item of clothing is designed with inspiration from the country it helps. The company's co-founder even has a local connection as a grad from Lower Merion High School. Adorn your loved ones with great activewear and "run for another," the motto of *Janji*.

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