

# VITA

YOUR LIFESTYLE SUPPLEMENT FROM VITADAILY.CA • DECEMBER 2020

*inside the*

# DECEMBER

ISSUE

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Vancouver Airport

# EDITOR'S DESK

## Pick of the Letter

VANCOUVER'S STYLE EDITORS REVEAL THEIR  
TOP GIFT WISHES FOR THE SEASON  
BY CATHERINE TSE



**NOA NICHOL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VITA**  
Even a magazine editor can run out of reading material during lockdown. "I've resisted e-readers for a long time, but being at home more than usual has upped my reading rate, so I think it's time to make the leap to a **Kobo Nia** (\$130)—the latest device from a company with Canadian roots. It reads just like printed paper with a glare-free screen, and holds up to 6,000 books ... that should be plenty to get me through winter!" Plus, with a battery life measured in weeks, not hours, she says it's "the perfect device to check out the new all-you-can-read e-books subscription, Kobo Plus, for less than \$10 per month." [Ca.kobobooks.com](http://Ca.kobobooks.com)

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# Y

You know their bylines; you've seen their style through the pages of their magazines. And, while they're experts at recommending exquisite things for pretty much everyone else, have you ever wondered what they really want for themselves? Here, Vancouver's fashion elite (read: editors) reveal what's on their personal wish lists this holiday season. ♡

**CLAUDIA CUSANO, EDITOR, NUVO**  
Claudia helms *NUVO* magazine from her new home in Florence, to which she relocated a year-and-a-half ago. Combining her practical Vancouver sensibilities with chic Italian style, she'd love to find a **Cedro leather backpack** (\$1,245) from **Il Bisonte** under the tree. "My bike basket is usually filled with mercato produce, pasta, flowers ... so a zaino (backpack) is the ideal hold-all, especially when I make magazine deliveries in the city." [Ilbisonte.com](http://Ilbisonte.com)



**ALEESHA HARRIS, ARTS & LIFE EDITOR, VANCOUVER SUN / THE PROVINCE**

A longtime fixture on Vancouver's fashion scene, Aleesha has her eye on a grey herringbone Alchemical coat by Toronto label **Horse Atelier** (\$525). With its fluid lines and cosy, oversized silhouette, this made-in-Canada piece, she says, "has been in my online basket for the last four years!" [Horsesatelier.com](http://Horsesatelier.com)



**JANINE VERREULT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BC LIVING**  
Surrounded constantly by the latest lifestyle and beauty products, Janine is clear about her gift policy: no more stuff! "I prefer gifts that are experiences or treatments," she says, adding that "self-care is super important to me, especially this year." So, for Christmas, she's asking for an advanced cosmetic procedure—maybe Botox or laser—from her favourite dermatologist, Dr. Marcie Ulmer, at **Pacific Derm**, 200-2425 Hemlock St., 604-682-7546. [Pacificderm.ca](http://Pacificderm.ca)

★ CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# VITA

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## Diane's Lingerie

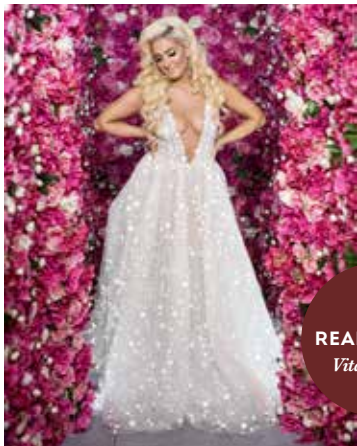
# Sparkle SEASON

From **Tiffany & Co.**'s Victoria collection, these vine earrings (\$13,000) look like Christmas wreaths and symbolize love and eternity. **723 Burrard St., 604-630-1300. Tiffany.ca**

Even under a mask, Rouge **Dior** Golden Nights lipstick (\$39 at **Holt Renfrew**), adorned with snowflakes and in iconic shades of red, will enhance your smile. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

## Jasmine Hoffman

@JASMINEHOFFMAN



READ MORE!  
VitaDaily.ca

### INFLUENCER PICK

"One of my favourite local jewelers, **Elsa Corsi**, has been designing for more than 20 years. Her motto is 'live sparkly,' and her custom pieces, which range from \$30 to \$600-plus and are available at her boutique, **Jeweliette Jewellery**, make a perfect gift—for yourself or someone special." **1090 Hornby St. 604-687-5577. Jeweliette.com**

OUR TOP HOLIDAY PICKS ARE SOMETHING TO SHINE ABOUT

WIN THIS!  
VitaDaily.ca



Hold your holiday lip colour in a bejewelled Rouge **Golden Bloom** lipstick case. By **Guerlain**, these beauty bullets, in **Golden Ruby** and **Golden Diamond** editions (\$42 each at **Hudson's Bay**), are scattered with precious rhinestones and provide the perfect place in which to carry your favourite festive lippie. **674 Granville St., 604-681-6211. Thebay.com**



If you have a **Pandora** lover on your list, this Sparkling Snowflake pavé charm (\$100) will make a merry addition to their collection. **725 Granville St., 604-891-1864. Ca.pandora.net**



Sparkle effortlessly in this 0.20-carat total-weight diamond pendant (\$649). Featuring a scintillating dancing diamond at its centre, which moves and sparkles continuously, the design is set with further glittering diamonds to create this eye-catching look. Exclusive to **Michael Hill's** Everlight collection, this stunner comes with a sterling-silver chain. **Michaelhill.ca**



More than four carats of brilliant-cut diamonds make **Chopard's** L'Heure du Diamant timepiece sparkle like snowflakes settled on an alpine peak. **105-925 W. Georgia St., 604-684-6515. Chopard.com**



**Banana Republic's** sequin bias-cut slip dress (\$167) is made of a decorated fabric covered in sparkling sequins for festive shine—plus, it can be safely and festively styled with the brand's own sequin face mask (\$13). **1098 Robson St., 604-331-8285. Bananarepublic.gapcanada.ca**

This newly released **Rose des Vents** bracelet, of yellow gold, diamonds and mother-of-pearl, features medallions designed to reinterpret **Monsieur Dior's** lucky star in the form of a wind rose with an eight-pointed design. We think it would make a most sparkling tree topper! **900 W. Georgia St., 604-891-1810. Dior.com**



Shine bright in this star-pattern mini dress by **Michael Kors** (\$395). Crafted from silk-blend jacquard with a metallic finish, it features a smocked waistband that defines the narrowest part of the silhouette. The flirty ruffle hem creates soft movement with each step. Style it with equally eye-catching accessories. **6551 Number 3 Rd., Richmond, 604-248-0209. Michaelkors.ca**



**Michael Kors' Ridley** lace-up boot (\$328) redefines tough-luxe winter appeal. Glitter and smooth leather combine for a tactile finish, while its stacked heel and rubber tread sole lend a utilitarian sensibility. Team this pair with everything from leggings to the season's printed dresses. **4700 Kingsway, Burnaby, 604-629-2012. Michaelkors.ca**

Gold, silver or pink? **Kurt Geiger London** has combined sparkles of various hues and textures in this beautiful clutch (\$150 at **Nordstrom**). A drop-in chain strap lets you go hands-free at parties. **799 Robson St., 604-699-2100. Nordstrom.ca**



Christmas sweaters have become an annual tradition, but they don't have to be tacky. We love this stylish twist by **Marc Cain** (\$490); knitted from an alpaca mix, it shows a shimmering forest scene, is slightly transparent, light to the touch and can be paired with a matching scarf (\$250). **701 W. Georgia St., 604-398-7777. Marc-cain.com**



Canadian subscription and e-commerce company **Rachel** has dropped new glitter tights (from \$15) in time for the holidays. Add them to all your outfits for a party-ready look. **En-ca.fromrachel.com**



What **Diamond Dreams** are made of! **Lise Watier's** limited-edition holiday collection offers an eyeshadow palette, highlighting and blush powder duo, blush and highlighter blush, universal gloss and a diamond-shaped Rouge Intense Supreme lipstick, all in extra-shimmery formulas for the perfect holiday glow-up. Purchase them together (\$95) or separately. **Lisewatier.com**



## DECEMBER'S IT BAG

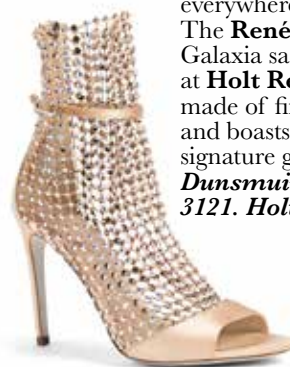
BY ALEESHA HARRIS

There are handbags that can be considered everyday accoutrements, and handbags so exquisite—dare we say even precious—that they cannot be thought of as anything other than instant heirlooms. This dreamy **Flap bag** (\$9,525 at **Holt Renfrew**) would fall into the latter category. Crafted from snowy white shearling, the design features all the hallmarks of an iconic Chanel bag—a diamond-quilted pattern, chain strap and interlocking CC emblem—with elevated details that take the design to an entirely new level of speciality. The addition of pavé-set **Strass** crystals on the gold-tone metal hardware, including on the oversized, lambskin-threaded strap, makes for a sparkling statement this holiday season, and for generations beyond. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

Decorate your tree this holiday season with this collectible beaded ornament (\$15 at **Hudson's Bay**) featuring the iconic HBC multi-stripes. **674 Granville St., 604-681-6211. Thebay.com**



Leave a little sparkle everywhere you go! The **René Caovilla** Galaxia sandal (\$1,780 at **Holt Renfrew**) is made of fine crystal mesh and boasts the brand's signature glittery sole. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**



# Hot Shops

VANCOUVER'S GREATEST AND LATEST RETAILERS



## OOMOMO

There's a new lifestyle store on Robson with an Asian twist—not to mention, upward of 12,000 items housed in 6,000-square-feet of space. With an emphasis on Japanese ceramics, **Oomomo** is also focused on home goods that are stylish and affordable, including kitchenware (bowls to baking cups), beauty items (face scrubs to head massagers), apparel (fluffy slippers to belly warmers), food (matcha hard candy to curry potato chips) and seasonal stuff (stockings to Santa hats). Plus, all the Hello Kitty-branded goods a **Sanrio** fan could want. **1144 Robson St.** [Oomomostore.com](http://Oomomostore.com) NOA NICHOL



## NEW AT MCARTHURGLEN

There's so much newness at **McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport**, it's really tough, reporting wise, to know where to start (not to mention, avoid overuse of the word "new" in our copy)! Big-name luxury brands including **Burberry**, **Tory Burch**, **Max Mara** and **Mackage** have opened stores for the first time at the gorgeous open-air outlet, alongside iconic winter-sports brand **Rossignol** and Canadian accessory designer **Matt & Nat** (oh, how we love their beautifully crafted vegan handbags). These boutiques, filled to the brim with fashionable savings (up to 70 per cent off and while supplies last), follow the arrival of Vancouver-based **Herschel Supply Company**, which opened its doors at the centre earlier this season, and **Aritzia**, which joined the roster back in the summer. Peckish? There's a new fun-and-tasty culinary experience to be had at **Food Folk Eatery**—a casual hub that houses three purveyors of gorge-worthy grub. **Chachi's** creates sandwiches heaped with house-made pickles and sauces plus the choicest meats and cheeses piled high on fresh local-bakery-made buns, while **Hula Poké** serves up good vibes and made-from-scratch poké using only Oceanwise seafood and **Dirtbelly** boasts garden-good eats like fresh salads and warm bowls featuring veg-centric greens and grains. Or, be transported to Mexico with authentic, street-style tacos, burritos and churros at **Hugo's** (don't miss the famous gelato-filled churro ice-cream sandwich). Though, with safety and social-distancing protocols firmly in place, sitting on Santa's lap may not happen this year, the annual holiday décor, lights and larger-than-life instalments are still on throughout the property, presenting perfect opportunities for greeting-card and Instagram-worthy photos. Trust, these new additions make it the perfect time to visit McArthurGlen, whether you're looking to update your winter wardrobe, check off every name on your gift-shopping list or simply bask in some holly jolly holiday cheer. **1000 – 7899 Templeton Station Rd., Richmond**, **604-231-5525**. [mcarthurglenvancouver.com](http://mcarthurglenvancouver.com) NOA NICHOL

## MOOSE KNUCKLES

Canadian luxury winter-clothing brands have gained a lot of traction worldwide, including Montreal-based **Moose Knuckles**, which specializes in combining fashion with functionality. Despite the global buzz, it's always been a bit tricky to shop the range in Vancouver; many stores only carry the most popular styles, making it hard to compare collections side-by-side. Well, our West Coast woes have been heard: last month, Moose Knuckles opened its standalone in **Pacific Centre**, just in time for Christmas. The store is stuffed with coats, from the latest FW 2020 models to brand best-sellers, from Puffers to the high-end Gold collection to the lightweight Cloud series. Stark walls and floors provide the perfect canvas for an LED "blizzard" projection, which creates the illusion of walking through a winter squall while shopping for your parka. Eventually, the fitting room in the centre of the storm—we mean, store—will be replaced with glass walls (no need to fully undress to try on jackets) and double as a personal shopping space. **701 W. Georgia St., 236-471-0404**. [Mooseknucklescanada.com](http://Mooseknucklescanada.com) LOUISA CHAN



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Bring  
Christmas  
Home



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# FASHION & SHOPPING

## For the Love of Local

DELIGHT EVERYONE ON YOUR GIFT LIST AND SUPPORT  
A LOCAL BUSINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON  
BY SHERI RADFORD

# D

Local stores and eateries are the lifeblood of any community—a sentiment more relevant than ever in this year of unprecedented changes and challenges. Small businesses have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic.

Right now, the bookstore that gave a raffle prize for your child's school fundraiser and the boutique that donated a gift card for your charity's silent auction need your support. And, since you have a list of presents to purchase, why not help your community by skipping Amazon and buying local this year? The shops are following B.C. health regulations for COVID-19—to keep both customers and staff safe—and they offer a wealth of knowledge and personalized service that you won't find online or at a big-box retailer.

"Small businesses are open and ready to serve Vancouverites," says Jane McFadden, executive director, **West 4th BIA**. "I appreciate all of the precautions and steps that ... **Coastal Health** has implemented for small business in Vancouver and we need to support all of those businesses that have invested and educated themselves and their staff on all of the regulations and precautions to make it safe for consumers to shop and dine."

Phyllis Simon, founder of **Kidsbooks**, says, "Local stores are vital to the health of a community."



Since 1983, she and her staff have been using their encyclopedic knowledge of books and games for children to guide shoppers to the right choice, whether it's for a 12-year-old reluctant reader or an eight-year-old *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* fan. Store visits are currently limited to 20 minutes, but staff are happy to email personalized gift suggestions ahead of time.

Vanda Borean, owner of **Rackets & Runners**, adds, "For a community to thrive, it's important we all do our part to buy from and support local businesses." Her store has been outfitting tennis, squash and badminton enthusiasts for more than 40 years. Shoe fittings can even be done virtually now, over a Zoom call.

Amanda Echelli, marketing manager for **Global Watch Company**, says "supporting local, especially in our luxury market, helps keep international brands like **Chopard** available in Vancouver. GWC is locally owned and operated." In keeping with the luxe vibe, **Chopard Boutique Vancouver** GWC offers private shopping appointments.

Many stores, such as **MEC** and **La Maison Simons**, have in-store pickup available, to minimize the time customers need to spend inside. And countless others—including **East India Carpets**, **Diane's Lingerie** and **Nordstrom**—offer curbside pickup. **Rackets & Runners** has even taken this service to the next level, setting up outdoor heaters to keep shoppers warm and cosy while waiting.

"If shoppers are not comfortable to go in store, most businesses are offering online purchasing and curbside pickup and, of course, take out," says McFadden of retailers along West 4th. "The time is now to support your local neighbourhood and businesses so they make it through this."

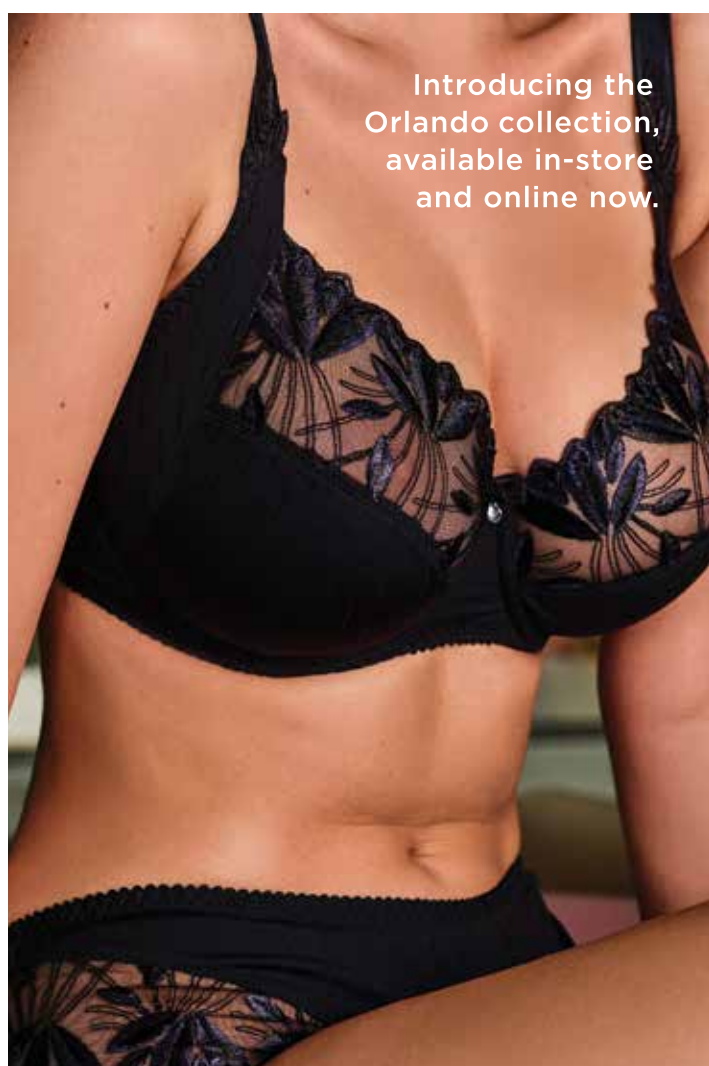
Several stores have dreamed up high-tech methods to deliver the spirit of the season this year. **Native Shoes** is filling its social media feeds with fun holiday content. **MEC** has curated a Spotify playlist overflowing with holiday cheer—but none of the tired old tunes you might expect. And Santa has gone virtual at **Nordstrom**, offering personal visits by video and accepting letters by email.

Even though local holiday shopping may look a little different this year, festive fun still abounds—but from a safe distance. **McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport** is decked out in holiday finery, making it the ideal backdrop for open-air photos (the perfect opportunity to capture a snap for your holiday card). South Granville and Robson Street are ideal for seasonal strolls with regular stops to shop ... and warm up with hot chocolate. West 4th Avenue is adorned with nutcrackers, mistletoe and Santa mailboxes, plus the area is hosting a **Kitsmas Advent** event complete with 24 days of giveaways.

If you expect to keep visiting your favourite stores—from **Fine Finds** in Yaletown to **La Jolie Madame** downtown—after the pandemic, use your holiday dollars to support them now. Anne Sanfacon, publicity co-ordinator for Simons, sums it up: "Supporting the local economy also means supporting services to local citizens and participating in the collective well-being."

Meantime, on West 4th, along Robson, up and down South Granville and in other shopping districts throughout the city, the motto for the season provides a perfect mantra to keep on repeat as we check names off our holiday shopping lists: Gift Big, Shop Small. It's truly for the good of us all. ♡

## PRIMA DONNA



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# Must the Show Go On?

INSIDERS MULL THE FUTURE OF FASHION WEEKS  
BY ALEESHA HARRIS

# T

The global pandemic has changed pretty much everything, from how we gather, to how—or rather if—we travel, where we work and how we shop. And the sweeping state of change has impacted the fashion industry, too.

“It has forced all of us to slow down, take a step back and really think about what makes the most sense for our brands and customers,” fashion designer **Michael Kors** says. “For us, that meant showing our collection a month later than usual, which gave our customers the chance to shop our fall collection before starting to think about spring.”

With fashion calendars shaken up and a shift in shopping habits underfoot, Kors and his team took the pandemic-initiated pause to take a closer look at their business priorities.

“We realized we didn’t have to do things the way they’ve always been done,” he says. “I’ve never designed just for the runway, I’ve always designed with my customers in mind. So, while concept-ing and designing this season



PHOTO: MICHAEL KORS

“ We realized we didn’t have to do things the way *they’ve* always been done ”

timely themes and interpreted them in an intelligent and humorous way.”

The overall shift in format and frequency is an element of change Kors expects to see going forward: “I think we’ll continue to see people explore when they communicate and how they contextualize their collections to the public each season. I don’t think anyone really knows how things will look when this is over. But I do think the changes in schedules and timing that we saw this past season will continue.”

For fashion journalists and buyers, the move to a digitally focused format—a shift Paloma Parker points out has been taking place over the past five years—eases the strain of travel and packed presentation schedules. It also means “broader access” afforded to customers to see the latest designs alongside the various industry veterans.

“Ultimately, global runway shows, talking to designers and visiting showrooms gives retailers, like **Hudson’s Bay**, the opportunity to make careful selections on product offerings that will resonate with our customers,” Tyler Franch, vice-president, fashion director at the department store, says. “Depending on what the designer has decided to do with their digital show, it’s an excellent opportunity to connect the customer more closely to the energy that only a select few would experience before.”

For Paloma Parker, that accessibility means getting creative with the stories she creates following the designer presentations: “I must be thinking of novel ways to inform our readership about trends and ideas, since it’s possible they saw the collection at the same time I did.”

While the idea that various elements can undoubtedly be altered for future seasons, there appeared a general consensus among the fashion stakeholders that, when it’s safe to do so, the grandiose presentations that populate the international fashion week calendar will still return. In some way. After all, runway shows are where “the magic” of the industry occurs, according to Franch.

Kors agrees: “There’s nothing like that rush of energy you get backstage once everyone is in their seats and the lights go down before the first look walks out.”

And, says Paloma Parker, “If you ask anyone who’s had the fortune of attending fashion shows in the past, we’ll tell you there’s a definite feeling of excitement sitting in that room watching the pieces go by. I think if designers can afford to—and would like to—do physical presentations, then they should do it.”

But the pressure to do so “just to adhere to an arbitrary fashion calendar that we all know needs an overhaul makes no sense,” she adds. “Designers should do what is best for them; consumers, press and buyers will just have to adapt.”



was different than anything we’ve done before—from working with our partners in Italy over Zoom to honing in on what will make women feel confident during these times and helping them find the joy in getting dressed again—the fact that we weren’t showing in person was just one more piece of the puzzle.”

Like many fashion designers, that shift also saw a departure from a crowded in-person runway show to a virtual presentation for the SS21 collection. Showed in mid-October amid the greenery of a New York community garden in the Bronx, the “laidback” and “relaxed” collection of styles showed to the soulful sounds of *American Idol* alum Samantha Diaz. There were no guests in attendance.

In other international markets, fashion houses like **Fendi** and **Chanel** showcased hybrid in-person and online presentations, with elements such as socially distant seating, masks worn by guests and a far-removed runway that allowed the unmasked models the ability to roam.

“I love that brands are really getting creative with how they present collections; for example, **Hanifa**’s 3-D fashion show that was held in March, or what Jeremy Scott did with puppetry for the **Moschino** Spring 2021 show,” Odessa Paloma Parker, fashion news director at *Fashion* magazine, says, noting that she hopes big brands move away from sending “wasteful and unnecessary” printed invitations and promotional items in the future. “I also loved the fashion film **Viktor & Rolf** did during couture; they took a lot of



PHOTO: ASTRID DAHL



PHOTO: FENDI




PHOTO: FENDI

# French Fancies

PICKS AND PRESENTS INSPIRED BY *EMILY IN PARIS*  
BY AMANDA ROSS

**T**

True, we're at the stage of the pandemic where the effort of pretense is simply too much to bear—this holiday, best to plant yourself in front of **Netflix** and binge-watch *Emily in Paris* for the perfect prescription of escapism and guilty pleasure. Follow that with our series-inspired (read: Francophile-approved) holiday offerings. 

When **Yves Saint Laurent** launched ready-to-wear in 1966, he was the first to democratize fashion. The limited-edition YSL Libre Eau de Parfum set (\$168 at **Nordstrom**) captures that free, pioneering spirit in a 90-ml bottle and 30-ml travel-size set. **799 Robson St., 604-699-2100. Nordstrom.ca**



When Emily decamps from Chicago to Paris, her can-do spirit all starts with a simple “yes” to new possibilities. **Dior**'s Oui jewelry collection captures that ethos in a ring (\$1,400), with lines sewn in 18-karat gold thread and a diamond that spells “oui” around your finger. **900 W. Georgia St., 604-891-1810. Dior.ca**

Didn't cave and purchase a pandemic puppy? You can still feel French, Fido and fabulous in **Hermès**' Colliers et Chiens silk-twill scarf (\$555), featuring illustrated dog collars in checkerboard Moroccan leather, rounded braid, inlaid leather, saddle-stitch, monochrome, two-tone, multi-colour and more. **717 Burrard St, 604-681-9965. Hermes.com**

When Emily steps in dog poop, she quickly becomes trained in laissez-faire Parisian pet ownership. Make your chien more chic with **Hermès**' Rocabar collar (\$790) in natural bridle leather inspired by the brand's equestrian roots. **717 Burrard St, 604-681-9965. Hermes.com**

The French may have invented the modern bra, but **Victoria's Secret** took it to sex-kitten status. Vintage French masterpieces are brought to life with the Holiday 2020 **For Love & Lemons** for VS collection, which includes the Freya slip dress (\$187). Decadent details like sheer dotted black mesh, satiny pink and ruffles are meant to be, like art, admired forever. **750 Burrard St., 604-684-2329. Victoriasecret.com**

A malachite green Round as Earth **Chanel** purse may have made an appearance in episode two of *Masculin Féminin*, but the newest iteration from the Cruise 2021 collection offers the crossbody in blue lambskin and gold-tone metal (\$2,525 at **Holt Renfrew**). A long and short chain means you can wear it either across your shoulder or in your hand, but always with a little je ne sais quoi. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-682-0522, Chanel.com**

If it seems like French women never age (Emily's boss, Sylvie, for one), it's likely thanks to Bordeaux beauty brand **Caudalie**'s grape-seed polyphenols—some of the most powerful antioxidants in the plant world and natural anti-aging holy grail. For every limited-edition Holiday Face Cracker (\$20) sold, one tree is planted. **Ca-en.caudalie.com**

French drugstores are legendary for turning beauty basics into cult-fave must-haves, with dry shampoo juggernaut **Batiste** first in line—almost three cans are sold every second around the world. Its popular Rose Gold scent (rose, bergamot, freesia) stopped production in 2018, but re-launches this January. Get a sneak peek with the limited-edition Tis the Season to Refresh dry shampoo gift pack (\$15 at **Shoppers Drug Mart**) which includes a can of the new Rose Gold. **Beautyboutique.ca**

This season, **Guerlain**, the oldest perfume house in the world (est. 1828), launches its limited-edition **Météorites Golden Bee** (\$77 at **Holt Renfrew**) in a symphony of pastel colour. Its Stardust Technology—six iridescent and matte pearl powder beads—infinitely reflect light to create the perfect glow. White and champagne reflect light; mauve catches light; tones of gold provide glow; green corrects. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

English lavender is actually native to France (it's only called that because it's hardy enough to survive English winters), but it's also an essential part of Lily Collin's understated French Girl look. The *Emily in Paris* actress uses **Saje**'s Peppermint Halo (\$28) for a “little touch of magic”—to wake up, alleviate headaches and start the day all with lavender essential oil, peppermint and rosemary. **1091 Robson St., 604-558-1900. Saje.ca**

Originally from Brittany, navy-and-white-striped shirts were standard-issue uniforms for 19th-century seamen long before they became symbols of Gallic flair. **Hudson's Bay** and French nautical brand **Armor-Lux** join each of their iconic stripes together for a classic new merino wool Breton sweater (\$280) with crew neck and three-button placket. **674 Granville Street, 604-681-6211. Thebay.com**

While the subpar macaron has now become ubiquitous (hello **Whole Foods!**), the real deal is worth boarding **Air France** for—or just head to **Ladurée**, where authentic macarons and supporting viennoiseries will save you the price of the tickets, and the cost of quarantine. **1141 Robson St., 604-336-3030. Ladureecanada.ca**

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# O Holey Night

WHAT IF THE DIAMOND RING UNDER THE TREE THIS YEAR IS NOT FOR YOUR FINGER, BUT FOR YOUR NOSE?

BY AILEEN LALOR

**B**

Back in 2004 I went to an interview for my first “grownup” job at a publishing company, and I removed the ring I’d worn in my upper cartilage for a few years. I wanted to be taken seriously. I wanted to be seen as a business-type. This piercing seemed too edgy and alternative for the staid and mature world I wanted to enter. I got the job, and never looked back—until last year.

That’s when I started to notice women my age with multiple ear piercings stacked with delicate and minimalist rings or diamond studs. There were celebs like Rashida Jones, Charlize Theron and Emma Stone—classic and elegant red-carpet beauties—and people in my own circles, who were wearing piercings with their chic everyday styles. I went to the piercing studio, only to find that my existing cartilage hole was still open, and I’ve been wearing a simple white-gold ring in it ever since.

The trend I’ve picked up on is only going to get bigger. It’s partly a societal shift. First, piercing studios are changing, becoming less dark and heavy metal. And we’re changing, too.

“Fifteen years ago mature women would come in and ask, ‘Am I too old for this? Am I trying to hold on to my youth?’” says Mike Bilinsky, a piercing artist at Vancouver’s **Adrenaline Studios**. “Now a lot of people understand that this is not an age thing. The world is more accepting of difference—freedom to be an individual is prevalent in workplaces, where they’ve realized that people who can dress the way they want are more productive. Previously piercings were seen as an out-there thing—maybe a bit aggressive—whereas now they’re a little wild, but not full crazy.”

Some people see piercings as a lower-commitment alternative to a tattoo. “It’s almost as permanent, but it’s softer and you can change the jewelry,” says Tori Dundas, owner of **True Curated Designs**. “My brand makes fine jewelry including custom pieces that are sturdy enough to be worn all the time—to work, to work out—and people often buy them in order to represent something specific, just like they might also get a tattoo.”

To her point, Bilinsky says the type of jewelry used is also changing. Where it used to be edgy-looking titanium and stainless-steel pieces, it’s now fine pieces with precious stones. “A big shift is the comeback of gold—yellow and rose—about five years ago,” he says. “Previously it would be people looking for the cheapest jewelry they could find, whereas now there are beautiful accessories, pieces that are works of art. That’s really opened things up.”

Adrenaline has even opened up a sister studio, **Sleight of Hand Tattoo**, which specializes in high-end jewelry with precious stones, marketed toward this exact demographic. Classic brands like **Messika** and even **Chanel** are showing multiple piercings in their campaigns. Why is jewelry for piercings getting more refined?

“I think a key thing is the movement away from fast fashion and toward sustainability—that less-is-more mantra,” Dundas says. “It means people are looking for beautiful things in unexpected places. Piercings are a way to individualize your look and create uniqueness. There’s also probably a big movement in that direction because of COVID-19, since fashion and style right now are from the neck up. Jewelry is also a wearable investment—a commodity that will appreciate over time—but why not get to enjoy it now?”

Messika founder Valérie Messika says it’s also about jewelry in general being worn differently. “This new trend has manifested itself in different ways, such as the double ring, the hand bracelet, the triple ring or the ear cuff,” she says, pointing out that her range includes ear clips that can be worn without piercing, with multiple pieces together to give you the trendy stacked ear look.

Bilinsky says his favourite look is what he calls a “curated ear,” where he and the client collaborate over what piercings to get in what locations. “Usually they might get



PHOTO: TRUE CURATED DESIGNS / ALLISON KUHL



“People are looking for *beautiful things* in unexpected places. Piercings are a way to *individualize* your look and *create uniqueness*”

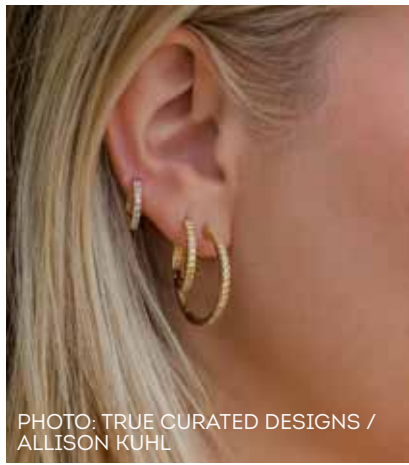


PHOTO: TRUE CURATED DESIGNS / ALLISON KUHL

one or two or three at the same time, and then you plan next steps,” he says. “I have had one client working on her ears for four years, and she’s now up to 17 piercings.” Not so common are stretched lobe piercings; Bilinsky says the trend is more toward minimalist pieces that are accents, not statements.

Piercings themselves are typically painful for just a second, but healing can sometimes be challenging. Sleeping on that side can cause the jewelry to shift in its angle and lead to swelling and scar tissue. To reduce the chances of that, Bilinsky suggests sleeping with a neck pillow from a plane. Healing time can vary between a minimum four weeks for a lobe piercing to several months. “The longest to heal is an industrial: two piercings with a bar that goes through the upper part of the ear from side-to-side,” he says.

What’s the next frontier for piercings? Noses are out, thanks to COVID-19 regulations, but Bilinsky says belly buttons are back. “In the ’90s it was all loud. Now it’s finer jewelry—very minimalistic and delicate rings, not barbells.” And, suddenly I’m naval gazing. While I don’t quite have the abs I had when I had my midriff pierced in 1999 (two children have put paid to that) and I don’t intend to stroll around in a crop top, I’m tempted. Till I decide, I bid you seasons piercings, and a happy new ear. ♡

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# Home for the Holidays

MAKE THE SEASON MERRY AND BRIGHT WITH THE GIFT OF DÉCOR  
BY SHERI RADFORD

**D**

Décor stores, particularly those in the Lower Mainland, offer so much more than furnishing and finishes. Got an (interior) design junkie in your life? A visit to one of these boutiques will yield gifts galore. **▼**

Cheers! Oenophiles, beer imbibers and cocktail connoisseurs all raise a glass to these naturally beautiful coasters (\$65 at **Cadine**), made from leather tanned using extracts from chestnut and mimosa tree bark. **3345 Cambie St. Shopcadine.com**



Soft and subtle, these woven cotton table runners (from \$40 at **EQ3**) are perfect for holiday tabletop dressing and available in two sizes. **2536 Granville St., 604-681-5155. Eq3.com**



On a long winter's night, the Editore wool throw blanket (\$1,326 at **Armani/Casa**) is perfect for staying comfy cosy—but in style. **1656 W. 2nd Ave., 604-423-2814. Armani.com/casa**

Make any room merry and bright with this colourful cushion (cover \$109, insert \$20 at **Chloë Angus Design**)—but please, no pillow fights! Renowned Haida artist Clarence Mills created the print—a modern interpretation of traditional indigenous design. **100 45 E. 6th Ave., 604-224-2456. Chloëangus.com**



You're guaranteed to bowl someone over with the gift of an iconic Elsa Peretti thumbprint bowl in sterling silver (from \$624 at **Tiffany & Co.**); its bright enamel finish is applied by hand. **723 Burrard St., 604-630-1300. Tiffany.ca**



**Roche Bobois** has long worked with established and emerging designers to create home pieces that celebrate a true French joie de vivre. This new collection of cushions (from \$225) includes patterns by Lisbon-based artist Joana Vasconcelos, printed and embroidered, with white or black backgrounds and available in three sizes, for a grand total of six different designs. **716 W. Hastings St., 604-633-5005. Roche-bobois.com**



Let there be light! Dreamed up by German designer Sebastian Herkner, the Plissé floor lamp (from \$3,200 at **Avenue Road**) brings illumination to the coldest and darkest time of year with its hand-blown glass lampshade—which looks more like gorgeously pleated fabric—and dimmable LED light. **301 W. Pender St., 778-588-6840. Avenue-road.com**

Embark on a magic carpet ride with the perfect handcrafted carpet or area rug for every taste and budget (various prices at **East India Carpets**). **1606 W. 2nd Ave., 604-736-5681. Eastindiacarpets.com**



The ultimate holiday hostess gift comes from **Dior**—and no, it's not a handbag. This precious, perforated decorative ball (\$440), crafted in a gold-finish variation, is adorned with Toile de Jouy—a hallmark motif that will brighten year-end festivities. **900 W. Georgia St., 604-891-1810. Dior.com**



Simple yet stunning, this ceramic presentation bowl (\$458), made exclusively for **Cadine** in New York, can be used to hold produce on the kitchen counter or display florals on an entryway table (pro tip: have staff create a bouquet for you in store, and gift it full of fresh blooms). **3345 Cambie St. Shopcadine.com**



Get in the game—the tic-tac-toe game, that is—with Jonathan Adler's 11-piece set crafted from solid brass in a marble base (\$256 at **Holt Renfrew**). **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**



A shining standout is this Ninfea low corteccia bowl with gilded interior (\$680 at **Provide Home**). Italian artist Paola Paronetto has developed a personal interpretation of ancient techniques of working with clay, expressions of raku, porcelain and paper clay by experimenting and researching for three decades. Simply fill this beauty with Christmas bonbons and gift away. **1805 Fir St., 604-632-0095. Providehome.com**



For those on your list who love treasured items, **Baccarat** is a French luxury brand creating exclusive crystal products. The BE@RBRICK (from \$470 at **LivingSpace**) is born from a daring collaboration with Japanese brand **Medicom Toy**. **1706 W. 1st Ave., 604-683-1116. LivingSpace.com**

For the host with the most—or the hostess with the mostess—these Tina Frey serving boards (large with spreader \$129, small \$75 at **Creative Home Furnishings**) are handcrafted from food-safe resin, making them shatter-resistant. **1738 W. 2nd Ave., 604-558-2625. Creativehome.ca**



Help a bookworm or bibliophile organize his or her treasured tomes with a set of 24-karat-gold-plated bamboo bookends, handcrafted by L'Objet (\$710 at **Secret Location**). **1 Water St., 604-685-0090. Secretlocation.ca**



## H&M Home x Diane von Furstenberg



Here's something to look forward to. **H&M** has teamed up with designer Diane von Furstenberg on an interiors collection that will launch in 2021. The collab brings together von Furstenberg's iconic fashion prints and colour play to a range of vases, cushion covers, blankets, candles and more. Says the wrap-dress diva: "The home is both a relaxing and empowering place where you can really 'own' a look or feel. With this collaboration, I want people to take charge of their home décor. The only rule I have is that your home should reflect who you are. The main point is to create a space that you're incredibly comfortable in and is a true expression of your personality." **Hm.com**

# DESIGN & DÉCOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGES 3 & 5

## ANICKA QUIN, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, WESTERN LIVING & VANCOUVER MAGAZINE

Sharing her savvy sense of style through two of Vancouver's top lifestyle mags, Quin knows exactly what she wants for Christmas: **Barter's** Smoke Stack stool (\$700). Made in B.C. of western red cedar, this hyperlocal gift not only highlights community focused, environmentally conscious design, it's multi-purpose. "I've got an aging cat who needs a little help getting up on higher objects, so I'm always looking for beautiful pieces that can help her, too," she says.



PHOTOS: IAN LANTERMAN

## SARA HAROWITZ, EDITOR, BASENOTES

As editor of home-centric lifestyle and culture magazine *Basenotes*, Sara has a refined eye for special pieces that add style—even to the most utilitarian of activities. The Always pan (\$145) from **Our Place** tops her wish list, especially after having recently moved and needing to replenish her pots and pans. "I love brands that make everyday items more beautiful, and I'm all about this pan's simple design and matte colour options," she says. "Plus, it acts as a skillet, steamer and sauce pot all in one—great for small-space living in Vancouver." **Fromourplace.com** PHOTO: LAUREN D. ZBARSKY



## CADINE

At first glance a centerpiece filled with florals at **Cadine**, Vancouver's most lust-worthy new lifestyle boutique, looks like a fixed-in-place planter display. But, as soon as a staffer gathers up a swath of fresh greenery to arrange a bouquet upon the breccia marble countertops, it becomes clear that to-go fresh flowers are on offer, as well. Few boutiques in the city read like the best of London or New York, but Cambie Street's Cadine does. The décor feels painted by a brush of good taste—interiors are by **Ste. Marie Art + Design**, complete with curved archways and wrought-iron fixtures—and its handpicked selection of quality goods from around the world do, too. Think Portuguese knit sweaters and lemon peel-scented **Made by Yoke** candles, bars of Okanagan **Karat** chocolate and hand-thrown ceramic vases. Intermixed: Cadine's house brand of ethically created wares, including fine jewelry and buttery leather bags and boots. Walking away with your purchase wrapped up decadently in thick ribbon and nestled within a burnt-orange bag is the icing on the Cadine cake. **3345 Cambie St. Shopcadine.com** KATIE NANTON

## LOUISA CHAN, EDITOR, VITA CHINESE

Ever since we entered lockdown, Louisa's been staring at her screen a lot more—for work and fun—so her holiday pick is **Samsung's** The Frame 65-inch smart TV (\$2,499). "It's the most fashionable TV on the market right now," she says, pointing to the fact that this telly actually turns into art when it's off, and revealing that, this winter, she'll be binging on Korean dramas like *Kingdom* (for zombie fans), *Arthdal Chronicles* (if you like *Game of Thrones*) and *Itaewon Class* (because Park Seo-Joon "is the cutest"). **Samsung.com**



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# New Noshes

WHERE AND WHAT TO EAT THIS MONTH



## MELO

Croissant lovers rejoice! **Melo Patisserie** hocks its bound-to-be-famous butter croissants (babied by the baker, who checks on the dough every three hours, day and night) within a tiny, four-table space off Main, alongside apricot ginger scones (pair these with house Earl Grey tea jam), thick chocolate lava cookies and macarons. In the cake case, the signature Chocomelo (French chocolate cake blanketed in a mirror-like ganache) and Lovely Lemon (refreshing, and decorated with edible glitter)—we dare you to resist their call. **154 E. 8th Ave., 778-996-1581. Melopatisserie.com** LOUISA CHAN



## KOZU

Sushi or pizza? You're in luck. Operating as a cloud kitchen (takeout only) from Coho Commissary in East Van, **Kozu Sushi Pizza** offers eight Japanese-inspired flavours presented on pie crusts made of deep-fried sushi rice. (Fun foodie fact: creating the perfectly seasoned crust, featuring a Japanese spice blend called furikake, takes two full days). Our top picks: the Aburified (torched smoked salmon) and the Takoyumi (takoyaki fried octopus balls). Get your order in ASAP; Kozu sells out on a near-daily basis. **1370A E. Georgia St., 778-751-5861. Kozusushipizza.com** MIRANDA SAM



## REMI

Chef Remi Ho's year-long series of dessert pop-ups now have a permanent home on South Cambie. At **Remi Patisserie**, the Asian-inspired tea-flavoured baked goods are next level: the matcha mochi éclair boasts Kyoto-sourced matcha; the hojicha mochi's mousse filling melts in your mouth; and the signature roll cake pioneers Thai tea. In fact, this sweet shop is perfect to a T. **109-511 W. 7th Ave.** MIRANDA SAM



## B HOUSE

The Drive has dining options to satisfy any craving—and now there's one more eatery to choose from. At **B House** the menu's an ode to traditional dishes with an Asian flair. For real Thai flavour order the papaya salad, prepped fresh with a pickled ginger vinaigrette and the surprise of candied almonds. A great comfort classic can be found in the stuffed salmon: creamy artichoke and beet caviar on a generous portion of Sockeye, with potatoes roasted in duck fat on the side. You won't "b" disappointed. **2270 Commercial Dr. Bhouse.ca** VICKI DUONG



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## ZOOMACK

New to Gastown, **Zoomack** offers a different way to eat out via its take on authentic Korean tavern dining. From a menu of large-portion share platters our fave was the Bossom, with crispy pork belly, tofu and kimchi. Or, try a Jeon pancake—a blend of cuttlefish, Asian chives and red chilis. Also on offer: such Anju dishes, meant to be enjoyed with a drink, as Korean fried chicken, tartare and egg custards. Cocktail wise, go with a Korean Mule: maple soju, lime juice, ginger beer and Korean pears served in a traditional copper mug. **52 Alexander St., 604-620-1240. Zoomackyvr.com** VICKI DUONG



## SULA

**Sula Indian Restaurant** is spicing up Main Street with a second location—and a massive menu of tangy and fiery dishes ranging from Mumbai street foods (the fried potato-cumin dumplings intrigued, but weren't available on our visit) to exclusive Mangalorean seafood (the local Dungeness crab cooked with coconut curry was messy, but delicious). Equally rousing is the new location's cocktail program, headed by winning bartender Jeff Savage and meant to unify popular sips with traditional Indian spices like tamarind, star anise and amla. Curry up and check it out. **4172 Main St., 604-874-5375. Sulaindianrestaurant.com** NOA NICHOL



## STREET AUNTIE

A fresh take on Chinese street food, **Street Auntie Aperitivo House** offers dining experiences (rather than à la carte dishes) that allow you to try items from the various "Aunties" (Ocean, Butcher, Yunnan and Dim Sum). Our "ocean" meal featured a crispy fish skin with duck egg yolks, garlic-fried soft-shell crabs and, for dessert, a supersized fortune-cookie cake infused with jasmine tea and fresh strawberries that's big enough to share, but delicious enough to devour alone. **1039 Granville St., Streetauntie.com** VICKI DUONG

# Small Groups? Big Wines!

LET US CHEERS TO 2021 BEING OH-SO-VERY CLOSE!

BY LAURA STARR



With the winter season strictly structured around small, intimate gatherings and our holiday dinner guest lists limited to a very select few, there remains a sliver of silver lining when it comes to ordering your festive wines this year: fewer mouths to satiate gives room for more decadent selections, bottles you might not dare share in groups over six! If we're being asked to forfeit guests, then we're throwing out the table wine, too, and focusing on quality, impressive wines that just might add the touch of dazzle we're so thirsty for.

Given that very few of us have left the province (let alone our homes) in some time, and since we are, in fact, all in this together, it only makes sense to nosedive into some remarkable B.C. wines—especially since we don't always give ourselves permission to splurge on higher-end local products. Although these bottles might be a splurge, it's not for the purpose of being cavalier but, rather, to be exceptionally thoughtful and elevate these intimate times—even if just by means of a few, decadent sips. ♡



**SUMMERHILL PYRAMID WINERY'S SPADEFOOT SYRAH 2012**

An eight-year-old Syrah (\$70), full and meaty and still bursting with dark berry fruit, this wine's name is an ode to the Spadefoot toads bred specifically for pest control on **Summerhill's** Oliver-based, organic and biodynamic vineyard. [Summerhill.bc.ca](http://Summerhill.bc.ca)

**HAYWIRE'S THE VINTAGE BUB**

This special bub (\$45) spent five years on its lees, giving it rich, toasty bread notes and a nuttiness from age while keeping its signature apple fruit and electric acidity—thank the high elevation and cool climate of Secrest Mountain Vineyard. [Okanagancrushpad.com](http://Okanagancrushpad.com)

**BLACK HILLS ESTATE WINERY'S NOTA BENE 2017**

Although this wine (\$62) could age for another five, 10 years, she's beautifully balanced right out the gate. This Bordeaux blend is robust and complex in style, with notes of cassis, cedar, cocoa, ripe berries, herbal spices and a finish that goes on and on. Should you be in a particularly decadent mood, at press time **Swirl Wine Store** in Yaletown had a few double-mags left—a 3,000-ml bottle—that sell for \$300. [Blackhillswinery.com](http://Blackhillswinery.com)

**CHECKMATE ARTISANAL WINERY'S LITTLE PAWN CHARDONNAY GIFT PACK**

**CheckMate** is renowned for its lineup of opulent but site-specific Chardonnay wines, and the BCL is currently offering a vertical gift set (\$330) of the Little Pawn Chardonnay: a set of three vintages that's usually only available by membership through the winery, direct. Little Pawn boasts rose petals, spicy mandarins, ripe tropical fruit and a rich, creamy texture. Liquid gold. [Checkmatewinery.com](http://Checkmatewinery.com)



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