

GIFTS FOR THE

This holiday season, wrap up some gadgets for your foodie friends.

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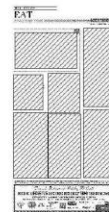
Looking for a holiday gift for culinary connoisseurs, coffee lovers and more? We scanned local shops to find some of the hottest themes for the kitchen. It became clear that the things getting a buzz were about improved design, updated technology or were just plain trendy. From those in the \$10-range to the more expensive crème de la crème, consider these gift ideas:

DIGITAL FOOD SCALES



Whether it's eggs, chicken, tofu or something else for dinner, this scale not only weighs the food but also calculates calories, cholesterol and other nutritional information. We're fans of the Perfect Portions brand, which organizes information in the familiar Nutrition Labels format.

Perfect Portions Touchpad food scale (\$59.99) at perfectportionsscale.com. Also available at Target (\$49.99) and Cooks of Crocus Hill (\$45) stores.



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FRUIT INFUSION PITCHER



This pretty pitcher adds fresh fruit to your water, lemonade or iced tea, giving your drink a boost in flavor.

Prodyne Fruit Infusion Pitcher (92 ounces, \$19.99) at Target.com and Bed Bath & Beyond.

POPSICLE MAKER



Making popsicles is a fun family activity, and you can customize the frozen treats according to your taste with ingredients like yogurt or natural fruit juices. And did we mention these popsicles freeze in less than 10 minutes?

Zoku Quick Pop, 6 reusable plastic pop sticks and mold kit, (\$49.95) at Williams Sonoma, Sur la Table and zokuhome.com.

MN-THEMED DISH TOWELS



Local lithographer/fine artist Faye Passow highlights Minnesota landmarks in one colorful, fun design. Matching hotpads are also available at some locations.

Dish towels (\$10) at keepthefaye.com and several Twin Cities stores, including Bibelot and Patina shops.

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SAK KITCHEN TOOLS



Not only are these tools eco-friendly but their colors also pack a lot of punch and personality into the kitchen.

Zak 4-piece mixing bowls (\$22.99), mini bowls (\$12.99) and measuring cups (\$10.99) at Bachman's stores.

ECO CUP

This ceramic mug comes in handy when your coffee, tea or hot cocoa gets cold. Remove the silicone lid and sleeve, place the mug in the microwave and reheat. It's also dishwasher safe, making cleanup easy.

DCI Eco Cup (\$13.95 each) at Patina stores or patinastores.com.



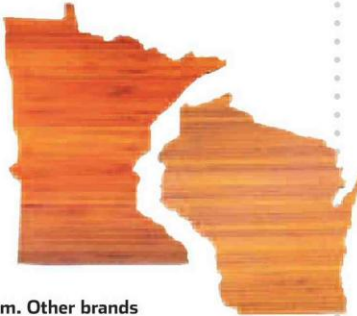
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STATE CUTTING BOARDS

Double up: Slice local artisan cheeses on these cutting boards and then use them as a pretty serving platter.

Minnesota and Wisconsin Heirloom bamboo cutting boards (\$48 each)

at dailygrommet.com. Other brands available at Patina (Totally Bamboo, \$19.95) and Cooks of Crocus Hill (Epicurean, \$26) stores.



WINE GADGETS

Lift up, push down and this hassle-free vino opener pops the cork right off. An aerator allows wine to breathe properly, bringing out the flavors even more.

Trudeau wine bottle opener (\$69.99) and aerator (\$24.99) at shopTrudeau.com. Also available at France 44 (4351 France Ave. S., Mpls.; 612-925-3252) and Kitchen Window (3001 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.; 612-824-4417).



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COFFEE KIT

Celebrate — and support — local artists with this holiday gift package. Choose from among eight featured mugs made by local artists. A $\frac{3}{4}$ -pound bag of coffee beans from local Peace Coffee is part of the package.



Coffee kits, one mug (\$40), two mugs (\$65) available starting Dec. 10 at Northern Clay Center (2424 Franklin Ave. E., Mpls.; 612-339-8007) or online at northernclaycenter.org.

VITAMIX PRO BLENDER

This commercial-grade blender chops, blends and purees with ease. No wonder the brand is a must-have among professional chefs for making smoothies, soups and more.

Vitamix Pro blender, locations include Sur la Table (\$600); vitamix.com

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