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Holiday guide: 5 great gifts for foodies

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Mistletoe season is upon us — and with it, a certain degree of panic. Just a few weeks remain until the big holiday, and just the thought of a crowded shopping mall is enough to send our pulses racing. So we've summoned a few North Pole elves of our own, and come up with five unusual, delightful presents for your favorite foodie. Think of it as a taste of California, minus the crowds and holiday traffic.

Caviar dreams



Atelier by JCB Gourmand club membership gift box is chock-full of artisan gourmet goodies. (Courtesy of Atelier by JCB)

Anything Yountville's JCB proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset does leans in the extravagant direction, from his wine tasting lounge to his gourmet whatever-of-the-month clubs. And the whatevers are luxe indeed. The Atelier Caviar membership (\$250-\$325) sends your favorite gourmet two 1-ounce containers of caviar from Petrossian, Calvisius, House of Kaviari and more, plus pairing suggestions, every month or quarter. The first shipment also includes a mother-of-pearl spoon and plate for serving.

Cheese lovers will swoon over the Atelier Fromage membership (\$75 quarterly), which includes international artisan crafted cheeses and wine pairing tips. And the Gourmand option (\$125 for five items, \$250 for 10) is loaded with handcrafted chocolates, panforte, jams and more.

Details: Browse the offerings and order online at www.jbcollection.com/atelier-memberships/.