

Luxury gifts can range from pampered to precious

BY MELISSA RYNTZ

Special to the Record-Eagle

What makes a holiday gift special or unique?

Luxury means something different to everyone. Traverse City resident Nicole Sclafani defines a luxury gift as something that caters to the recipient.

"I think of luxury as a gift of pampering, something that makes you feel good..." Sclafani said.

Others think of luxury gifts as expensive items.

Nicole Girard of Traverse City offered this definition: "I would say that a luxury gift is something you wouldn't buy for yourself and probably something rather expensive."

Of course, expense varies for everyone, but as Girard points out, "luxury is giving or receiving something that feels decadent."

Whether luxury means pampering, leisure and escape, or value, there are endless options available for shoppers this holiday season.

Here are a few suggestions aimed to please all luxury shoppers:

Bring luxury home with the addition of a hot tub or a billiard table. Northern Paradise of Traverse City specializes in a wide variety of luxury gifts including hot tubs and hot tub gazebos, billiard tables and various fireplaces.

These gifts are especially popular before and during the holiday season and keep residents warm and happy throughout the winter. One product offered at Northern Paradise is a Pellet Stove, which according to Pat Beckman, owner of Northern Paradise, "will heat a 2,000 square foot home for about \$300 a year."

The stove heats up by burning anything that comes

in pellet form, "even cherry pits," as Beckman said.

Some couples purchase luxury gifts together to celebrate the holiday season.

As Beckman pointed out, "we see many husbands and wives purchasing our products jointly, as gifts for each other. We sell a good deal of hot tub and hot tub gazebos during the holidays."

Also a popular product during and after the holiday season are billiard tables, which bring excitement and fun to any home, and range in price between \$1,500 and \$4,500.

Indulge someone special with a trip to a day spa. Impres Salon of Traverse City offers many spa packages aimed to pamper and tend to your loved one.

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these types of gifts as pampering. I think it's a way for the mind, body and spirit to relax," said Sandra Dunn, co-owner of Impres Salon.

Impres Salon offers sever-

al massage type packages including the always popular Unwind package. This package includes an hour massage, pedicure and signature intensive mask. This

treatment package is priced around \$145, and other packages range between \$120 and \$285. During the holiday season, Impres Salon offers special gift certificates and dis-

count packages.

"You can put together any package you want for that special someone," Dunn said.

Many people feel that jewelry, with its sentiment and value, is the ultimate luxury gift.

As Beth Guntzviller, owner of Miner's North in Traverse City said, Pandora bracelets as a new favorite among customers. It's a fashionable and affordable bracelet which, through the addition of new beads, can be an ongoing gift.

"This product has been blowing us away," Guntzviller said, "as people of all ages and both genders are buying it for loved ones."

These bracelets can be purchased starting at about \$30, while beads varying in price add value and uniqueness. Also favorite gifts this holiday season are sterling silver and diamond products.

"Diamonds are always a favorite," noted Guntzviller, "and Sterling Silver is very hot right now."

Sterling Silver gifts can be purchased for as little as \$20 or as much as thousands of dollars. As Guntzviller concluded, "when I think of a luxury gift, I think of something sentimental. There is nothing more sentimental than jewelry."

Luxury gifts go beyond the token package under the tree. Luxury gifts are one of a kind presents that either have lasting value or meaning, or go beyond something shoppers normally purchase themselves. Whether they are a home extravagance, a bit of bodily pampering, or a lavish gift of sentiment, a luxury gift leaves a lasting impression.

Melissa Ryntz is a local freelance writer.




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