

# Gifts for the gourmet

From chocolate to cherries, northern Michigan's edible delicacies make the perfect gift **BY KRIS HAINS**

## Gifts to satisfy the sweet tooth

### The Sweet Shop

It isn't often that you can eat a trademark, but a visit to The Sweet Shop in Cadillac can change that.

"We're known for our snowbirds," said owner Janeen Russell. Snowbirds, which have their own trademark and have been a 40-year mainstay at the Cadillac business, feature white chocolate with pieces of pecan. There is also a sugar-free version.

Another holiday staple is English toffee, something Russell says they only make at the holidays.

For gift giving, Russell tries to make it as simple as possible for the buyer. "They can either tell us exactly what they want (in their gift box)," she said, "or they can tell us how much they want to spend and let us create the box for them."

111 N. Mitchell St., Cadillac; (888) 775-8880; [www.sweetshop4u.com](http://www.sweetshop4u.com).

### Annie's

To warm things up on Christmas morning, Annie's in downtown Traverse City suggests coffee.

"We have a fabulous line of gourmet coffee," said owner Pete Schmitz. At the holiday times, Christmas spice is a popular seller. It can be combined in a gift basket with some of Annie's hand-made chocolates. In addition to traditional chocolates, Annie's also has a line of Christmas chocolates.

For the non-chocolate eater, Annie's 55 flavors of Jelly Bellies makes for a colorful gift.

208 E. Front St., TC; 946-6201.

### Portside Treats

Portside Treats is a small candy store, according to owner Rita Hresko. but don't let their size fool you. The Elk Rapids store cooks up some wonderful edibles for holiday gift giving.

"We make our own caramel corn," said Hresko.

And what's their best seller?

"Fudge is probably the best seller," she said.

Portside Treats also has a vast selection of kids candy including worms, edible Legos and jelly bellies.

137 River St., Elk Rapids; 264-0343.

### Murdick's Fudge

A taste of Northern Michigan



Photo courtesy of Food for Thought

**Wild Blueberry Merlot preserve with brie cheese is the most popular item at Food for Thought.**

wouldn't be complete without the gift that pays homage to the tourists or "fudgies" who visit during the summer. For over 40 years Murdick's Fudge has been creating their trademark fudge and other sweet treats, all of which make excellent holiday gifts.

"Most people like the mixed boxes," Debbie Murdick said.

The most popular items in the mixed boxes are fudge, brittles, clusters and nuts.

In addition to all of their sweet treats, Murdick's offers items like jellies and honey that can be added to gift boxes.

And for a taste of Traverse, Murdick suggests sending a gift box with the following combination of fudge: Cherry, Black Cherry, Chocolate Cherry and

Cherry Royale.

116 E. Front St., TC; 4500 U.S. 31 N; (800) 2-FUDGE-2; [www.murdicksfudge.com](http://www.murdicksfudge.com)

### Grocer's Daughter

Mimi Wheeler and Carlene Peregrine, owners of Grocer's Daughter in Glen Arbor, are gaining quite a reputation for their herb-infused truffles and other chocolate confections.

A visit to their Web site will allow you to view all 15 flavors of truffles, many of which contain home-grown herbs like fresh rosemary and organic basil.

In addition to their truffles, Grocer's Daughter also makes "chocolate puddles," circular pieces of chocolate in organic cherry and pumpkinseed, praline

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