

Food gifts

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salsas. The salsas (in flavors like kiwi-lime and apple chipotle) are a non-tomato based product, which makes them perfect for those who love salsa but don't love the heart-burn they get from tomatoes.

In addition to a variety of mouth-watering products, American Spoon Food also offers recipes that take the gift from jar to meal.

"Our cherry pecan salsa and pumpkin chipotle roasting sauce combine to make an exceptional chili," Pete Schmitz said.

Pete Schmitz likes to think of American Spoon Foods as "the amenity of choice and the gift of choice." The downtown Traverse City business has a wide selection of jarred products. All of their jars fit inside gift boxes, which makes the combinations endless.

230 E. Front St., TC; (see Web site for other locations); 935-4480; www.spoon.com.

Amon Orchards

"More and more people are giving the gift of health," said Dave Amon, owner of Amon Orchards in Acme.

Fortunately for Amon, those gift-giving trends fit in perfectly with what he has to offer from his farm market. In addition to a full selection of fruit products (everything from cherry mustard and cherry barbeque sauce to cherry salsa) Amon's also has a complete line of no sugar added cherry products.

"They're perfect for someone who's watching their calories or for those with Type I or Type II Diabetes," he said.

8066 U.S. 31 N; (800) 298-3409; www.amonorchards.com.

Friske's Farm Market

Northern Michigan may be known for its cherries, but at Friske's Farm Market, it's apples that get the spotlight at the holiday times.

"Our most popular seller is our apple gift package," said owner Judy Friske.

The gift package comes with either a single layer or double layer



Record-Eagle file photo

American Spoon Foods offers custom gift boxes that allow you to pick any group of their preserves, salsas and other products.

of Friske's apples. The best part of the gift, according to Friske, is that apples can be substituted out for other items. For example, you can take out one of the apples and in its place purchase a jar of caramel or honey to complement the apples.

Friske's also offers a variety of sampler packs like the Friske Sampler which features their five top selling cherry products.

10743 U.S. 31 N; Ellsworth; 599-2604; www.friske.com.

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Jonathan Zoutendam, D.D.S.

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