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There's no better selection of domestic farmstead cheeses than at American Cheese, Erin Nicosia's little West Sayville shop. Nicosia will put together an **"Everything but the Cheese" gift package** to suit any budget (minimum, \$35) that can include crackers, mustard, chutney, cheese-wrapping paper, a slate or wood cheeseboard. Why not add a gift certificate for the cheese? This package includes Brooklyn slate cheese servers, Boska cheese wire, Formaticum cheese paper, olive oil and sea salt crackers and local chutney and stone-ground mustard. 106 W. Main St., West Sayville, 631-750-5202, americancheeseshop.com



Savor the holidays

GIFTS OF FOOD FROM LONG ISLAND AND BEYOND

Food is uniquely suited to holiday gift-giving. The well-chosen comestible can convey luxury (who knew there was such a thing as artisanal soy sauce?), generosity (a 10-pound of bag of basmati rice will keep your loved one in pilaf for a year) or thoughtfulness (what celiac sufferer wouldn't appreciate a gluten-free gift basket?). Here are suggestions for the gastronome on your list, as gathered by the food staff.



Ceriello antipasto gift basket: Putting together an antipasto plate has never been easier, thanks to Ceriello Fine Foods in Williston Park and Wantagh. Its antipasto "basket" — packaged in a reusable green colander — contains artichoke hearts, Italian tuna in olive oil, grilled asparagus spears, imported sharp provolone, dry sausage (one hot and one sweet), roasted red peppers, sweet stuffed peppers, Gaeta olives, pepperoncini, anchovies and one box each of imported grissini breadsticks and taralli. \$60. At 541 Willis Ave., Williston Park, 516-747-0277 and 1161 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh, 516-679-9210, ceriellofinefoods.com.



The Crushed Olive, with stores in Huntington, Stony Brook and Sayville, can put together customized gift box samplers with 60 ml bottles of its specialty olive oils and vinegars. Consider spicy harissa olive oil for couscous, stews and soups or espresso balsamic to glaze a pork roast. One possible six-bottle

combination includes basil, harissa and wild mushroom-infused olive oils, as well as Sicilian lemon, espresso and fig balsamic vinegars. \$35. At 278 Main St., Huntington, 631-423-1500; 133 Main St., Stony Brook, 631-675-6266 and 31 Main St., Sayville, 631-256-5777, thecrushedolive.com.



Is there a gluten-avoider on your gift list? Naturally Free in Smittstown is one of Long Island's best sources for gluten-free comestibles, and owner Christine Mitchell will create a gift box or basket from her wide collection of **gluten-free specialty foods**, such as GF pizelles, Snickerdoodle cookies, fortune cookies, pumpkin spice muffin mix, shortbread, chow mein noodles and spaghetti. Minimum gift purchase is \$20. Christmas-themed boxes cost an additional \$4 to \$5; baskets \$8 to \$15. 9 Singer Lane, Smittstown, 631-656-5440, naturallyfreefood.com



Colavita hot chili peppers in oil: What do you give a fire-eating friend who can't resist that extra jolt of hot pepper? Try these pretty crimson chili peppers from Colavita. What makes their fiery piquancy all the more appealing is their smooth finish, thanks to the olive oil marinade. Think of them as colorful components of an antipasto plate. Or, cut into small pieces, they can take a sandwich or burger into another, hotter, dimension. \$7.99 at lavarone.com in New Hyde Park, Wantagh and Woodbury.

MORE FOOD GIFT IDEAS, B8

START A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION.

SATISFY EVERYBODY.



7 GREAT LONG ISLAND LOCATIONS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| WOODBURY
8285 JERICHO TPK. | GREENVALE
90 NORTHERN BLVD. | EAST MEADOW
2565 HEMPSTEAD TPK. | MASSAPEQUA
5288 SUNRISE HWY. |
| COMMACK
60A VETERANS HWY. | GARDEN CITY
674 STEWART AVE. | OCEANSIDE
14 ATLANTIC AVE. | |

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