

# GIVING WITH MEANING

THIS SEASON, THANK A GREAT HOSTESS WITH A BEAUTIFUL GIFT BASKET TAILORED TO HER TASTES. BY AMANDA CARGILL

**1 CARNAVAL MOSCATO RED**  
(\$16, total wine.com)

**2 RABITOS ROYALE DARK CHOCOLATE FIG BONBONS**  
(\$23, [latienda.com](http://latienda.com))

**3 MOLINILLO**  
(Editor's own)

**4 NO BAKE MAKERY BY CRISTINA SUAREZ KRUMSICK**  
(\$14, [latienda.com](http://latienda.com))

**5 ZÓCALO GOURMET ELDERBERRY WHOLE FRUIT SPREAD**  
(\$12, [latienda.com](http://latienda.com))

**6 TUSAL ARTISAN NUTS CARAMEL-GLAZED LARGUETA ALMONDS**  
(\$14, [latienda.com](http://latienda.com))

**7 TAZA BOLIVIAN HOT CHOCOLATE**  
(\$12, [taza.chocolate.com](http://taza.chocolate.com))

**8 ORIGEN ULMO HONEY FROM CHILE**  
(\$18, [latienda.com](http://latienda.com))

**9 LA CACHAFAZ DULCE DE LECHE**  
(\$10, [buenaondafoods.com](http://buenaondafoods.com))

**10 BASKET**  
(Set of 2, \$23, [jamaligarden.com](http://jamaligarden.com))

## On The Latin Kitchen:

For great holiday gift ideas for home chefs, go to [thelatinkitchen.com/holiday](http://thelatinkitchen.com/holiday)

**Finding the perfect hostess present** during the holidays can be as hard as locating the baby Jesus in the *rosca de reyes*. So this year, skip the treasure hunt and create a personalized gift basket guaranteed to win you invitations for life! Some ideas and tips to get you started:

### // PICK A THEME

Whether you go with spa products or foodie favorites, unify the items visually with pretty ribbons, labels and other decorative touches. Our basket centers on delectable Latin American sweets including hot chocolate, *dulce de leche* and flower honey.

### // MAKE IT PERSONAL

Build your basket around the recipient's favorite hobby or an upcoming trip. For example, if your pal is headed to Mexico City, include magazines for the plane ride, a travel journal, soccer tickets and \$20 in Mexican pesos with a note: "I'm buying the first round! *Salud!*"

### // PAMPER HER

The holidays are stressful for everyone, and even more so for hosts. Think about including the kinds of things she reserves for special indulgence days. Massage oil, dark chocolate-covered figs and a bottle of dessert wine all fall into the spoil-yourself category.

### // HAND-WRAP GOODIES

Remove cumbersome packaging and not-so-pretty labels and replace them with your own wrapping. Burlap and raffia lend a homespun feel, while printed fabrics and silk flowers add a colorful touch.

### // PLAY WITH PRESENTATION

Arrange your basket to display all items clearly by filling the bottom with gift paper and standing taller, flatter items upright at the back and smaller items in the front. For added dimension, include visually interesting items, such as a handcrafted *molinillo* if your focus is food.

