

Find out where to buy these incredible stocking stuffers on page 148.

## #BUYBLACK

100-PLUS AWESOME ITEMS THAT ARE FOR US AND BY US

BY TANYA A. CHRISTIAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SWEENEY

# 2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



# BEAUTY

FOR THE MAKEUP MAVENS AND SKIN CARE AFICIONADOS

**1.** The contouring connoisseur will jump for joy over this **AJ Crimson Beauty** Artist Kit, which has six creamy shades. \$150, [ajcrimson.com](http://ajcrimson.com)

**2.** The **Vernon François** Essence Holiday Box is a naturalista's dream. \$103, [vernonfrancois.com](http://vernonfrancois.com)

**3.** For the friend who loves fragrances, this First Lady Michelle Obama-inspired scent is a must. **Seth Kornegay** Orla eau de parfum, \$115, [sethkornegay.com](http://sethkornegay.com)

**4.** Help her wash away her cares and smell good while doing it, with this **Nubian Heritage** Coconut & Papaya body wash. \$12, [ulta.com](http://ulta.com)

**5.** These pint-size **Eu'Genia** shea butters will delight the skin care fanatic. \$13 or \$18 each, [eugeniashea.com](http://eugeniashea.com)

**6.** The **Facial Forensics** Green Tea toner and Apricot moisturizing oil bring pampering to any powder room. \$22 each, [facialforensics.com](http://facialforensics.com)

**7.** **P.R.M.I.T. Beauty** gel-effect jacquers give nails a fresh coat of festive. \$11 each, [prmitbeauty.com](http://prmitbeauty.com)

**8.** The whimsical **Junkprints** "Overgive" pouch is for the woman who can't live without her makeup essentials. \$28, [junkprints.com](http://junkprints.com)

**9.** Beauty buffs can take their routine on the road with the **Bovanti Cosmetics** Pro 11-piece brush set. \$85, [bovanti.com](http://bovanti.com)

**10.** This **Bubbles + Butter Artisan Skincare** lotion is so lovely it deserves to be wrapped with a bow. \$16, [bubblesandbutter.com](http://bubblesandbutter.com)

**11.** Gift a luxuriously glam shave and soft-to-the-touch skin, compliments of **Oui Shave** "Carrie" 14-karat gold razor set. \$85, [ouishave.com](http://ouishave.com)

**12.** For the queen who adores her heavenly crown: **OMhh** Vegan Hair & Body Wash. \$13, [ohmyheavenlyhair.com](http://ohmyheavenlyhair.com)

**13.** She can get the spa experience with the **Vera Moore** shea butter spa trio. \$40 including shipping with code EST16, [veramoorecosmetics.com](http://veramoorecosmetics.com)

**14.** These **Marie Deneen** shea and cocoa butter colors are sure to please the woman who loves lipstick and lip balm. \$20 each, [marieneene.com](http://marieneene.com)

**15.** **Joy Lorraine Cosmetics** offers 120 eye-popping shades for the sister who enjoys her eye shadows! \$28, [joylorrainecosmetics.com](http://joylorrainecosmetics.com) »



# HER

FOR THE LADIES WITH LOADS OF STYLE AND EXCEPTIONAL GRACE

**1.** Bold prints galore! Your favorite fashionista will love **The Wrap Life** head wraps. \$26 each, [thewraplife.com](http://thewraplife.com)

**2.** The **Brett Johnson** poncho scarf is made for men but is perfect for the polished trendsetter. \$625, [brettjohnson.co/shop](http://brettjohnson.co/shop)

**3.** Go flashy with **Third Crown**. Its "Marcy" link choker is sure to satisfy even the pickiest dames. \$800, [thirdcrown.com](http://thirdcrown.com)

**4.** A color-block poncho in holiday hues—what's not to love? Thanks, **Malene B.** \$75, [maleneb.com](http://maleneb.com)

**5.** These **Tnemnroda** "Nu-Nu" sunnies are for the woman on your list who likes to be different. \$120, [maisontnemnroda.com](http://maisontnemnroda.com)

**6.** Your glamorous girlfriend will be dazzled by this **F&W Style** "Rose" croc embossed gold clutch. \$145, [fwstyle.com](http://fwstyle.com)

**7.** For a gift with glitz, these 14-karat gold and diamond jewels are a winner. **Mateo New York** geometric-shaped earrings, \$1,375, and necklace, \$1,150, [mateonewyork.com](http://mateonewyork.com)

**8.** This **Cultro** bomber is a fabulous find for someone who likes making a statement. \$365, [cultroclothing.com](http://cultroclothing.com)

**9.** For the sharp photographer, "The Madison" bag by **Ona** couldn't be more fitting. \$389, [onabags.com](http://onabags.com)

**10.** Beautiful wrist candy is for those who enjoy the finer things. **Sabre** "Cuff 2" silver bracelet, \$1,500, [sabrenyc.com](http://sabrenyc.com)

**11.** This edgy **LorraRivers** "Nikita" clutch will take your effortlessly chic friend from day to night. \$238, [lorrarivers.com](http://lorrarivers.com)

**12.** **Therapeutate** Cardamom Rose botanical eau de toilette? Think all-natural woman. \$240, 50 ml, [therapeutate-parfums.com](http://therapeutate-parfums.com)

**13.** Upgrade her beauty rest with the **Jypsea Leathergoods** embossed leather sleep mask. \$26, [terinanicole.com](http://terinanicole.com) »





# HIM

## FOR ALL THE DAPPER GENTS

**1.** Urban businessmen will appreciate "The Ella" leather backpack by **Solomon Chancellor**. The versatile design fits a 15-inch laptop. \$675, [solomonchancellor.com](http://solomonchancellor.com)

**2.** This **Striver's Row & Co.** camo-print quilted leather jacket will help him stay warm all winter long. \$1,079, [striversrowusa.com](http://striversrowusa.com)

**3.** Does his favorite sweater need an update? Enter this **Brett Johnson** cashmere knit crewneck with suede front. \$880, [brettjohnson.co/shop](http://brettjohnson.co/shop)

**4.** The **Bevel** trimmer has all the bells and whistles to help your man stay dashing. \$200, [getbevel.com](http://getbevel.com)

**5.** Want a timeless gift? You can't go wrong with the beautiful **Orijin Culture** "OrijinWood" watch. It's outfitted with gold-plated accents. \$99 with code ESSENCE, [orijinstore.com](http://orijinstore.com)

**6.** For the guy who loves his grooming, the **Scotch Porter** Beard Collection is ideal. \$70, [scotchporter.com](http://scotchporter.com)

**7.** This **Solomon Chancellor** duffle can store everything he'll need for a romantic weekend away (hint, hint). "The Acheson" bag, \$1,095, [solomonchancellor.com](http://solomonchancellor.com).

**8.** **Vintage Heavy** "Uptown" wing-tip boots are for the guy who has an eye for style but likes to keep things comfortable. \$225, [vintageheavy.com](http://vintageheavy.com). »





# KIDS

FOR INFANTS, TEENS AND EVERY STAGE IN BETWEEN

**1. The DynaSmiles by DNT** rugged iPhone cases feature faces that look like your mini me. \$36 each, [thedynasmiles.com](http://thedynasmiles.com)

**2. Pick up a Cee Cee's Closet NYC** colorful iPad case for any teen. \$30, [ceeceesclosetnyc.com](http://ceeceesclosetnyc.com)

**3. Lunches are cooler with Soap Box Theory** hero pails. \$20, [soapboxtheory.com](http://soapboxtheory.com)

**4. Teach your little songstress about one of the greats. Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat.** \$17.99, [indiebound.org](http://indiebound.org)

**5. This foxy Ruffles With Love** set is just for the babies. \$24, [ruffleswithlove.com](http://ruffleswithlove.com)

**6. She'll love the My Natural Girl** doll. \$155, [runwaycurls.com](http://runwaycurls.com)

**7. The Mini Vixens Decor** watch tells your teen it's go time. \$35, [minivixensdecor.com](http://minivixensdecor.com)

**8. Skateboarders, rejoice! The Red Black Kids** longboard, \$250, [theradblackkids.com](http://theradblackkids.com)

**9. Brother Vellies** booties are too cute for words. \$185, [brothervellies.com](http://brothervellies.com)

**10. Get an Ensom D. Wade** indoor hoop for your rising b-ball star. \$20, [getthoops.com](http://getthoops.com)

**11. Future inventors will enjoy this inspirational DVD. Garrett's Gift.** \$15, [sweetblackberry.org](http://sweetblackberry.org)

**12. The Freedom in Congo Square** book will excite their senses. \$17.99, [gas-art.com](http://gas-art.com)

**13. She can use this JBlaque** pouch for markers or makeup. \$9, [blaqueconcepts.com](http://blaqueconcepts.com)

**14. The Back in the Days** coloring book will delight your budding photographer. \$9.99, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

**15. This Love Nonku Handmade** doll reminds your daughter to love the skin she's in. \$45, [lovenonku.com](http://lovenonku.com)

**16. Your fly guy can rock these GCK** socks. \$10, [gckollection.com](http://gckollection.com)

**17. The pint-size scholar can sport this Philadelphia Printworks** tee. \$23, [philadelphiaprintworks.com](http://philadelphiaprintworks.com)

**18. Reserve this for the teen who likes to stand out. Served Fresh** "Stand Up" hoodie, \$110, [servedfreshcollection.com](http://servedfreshcollection.com)





## HOME

FOR THOSE WHO ADORE  
THEIR PERSONAL SPACE

1. This **Puku** compact portable charger keeps your phone juiced even after you leave the house. \$49, [gotpuku.com](http://gotpuku.com)

2. The beautiful **Bolé Road Textiles** woven blanket is for that decor-obsessed friend who lives for cuddle time. "Abren" throw. \$175, [boleroadtextiles.com](http://boleroadtextiles.com)

3. This renaissance-inspired offering by the **Harlem Candle Co.** will warm the heart and home of any hostess. \$42, [harlemcandlecompany.com](http://harlemcandlecompany.com)

4. Your favorite jet-setters can take this **Lit Brooklyn** four-ounce travel candle with them on their next trip. \$14, [litbklyn.com](http://litbklyn.com)

5. This **JS Woodwork** handcrafted cutting board will delight the master kitchen chef. \$140, [jerellsimmons.com](http://jerellsimmons.com)

6. These **Mae B** blank holiday cards with illustrations perfectly represent your love for your girls. \$25 for 10, [maeonline.com](http://maeonline.com)

7. Art admirers will love these **Lisa Hunt Creative** framed gold foil prints. \$200 each or \$340 for both with code ESSENCE15, [lisahuntcreative.com](http://lisahuntcreative.com)

8. Make their rainy days brighter with this lightweight **Pardon My Fro** umbrella. \$25, [pardonmyfro.com](http://pardonmyfro.com)

9. Music buffs will be jammin', thanks to the **House of Marley** Get Up Stand Up Bluetooth audio system. \$330, [houseofmarley.com](http://houseofmarley.com)

10. Coffee breaks are all the more pleasurable with this **VBartwork** mug. \$22, [vbartwork.com](http://vbartwork.com)

11. The **Llulo** Dompkeh kente pouf gives entertaining enthusiasts attractive extra seating. \$140, [llulo.com](http://llulo.com)

12. Folks will adore this ESSENCE coffee-table book on the First Family. **The Obamas: The White House Years**. \$11.99, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

13. With **Sheila Bridges Designs** signature Harlem toile, glassware has never looked so good. \$70 for 6, [sheilabridges.com](http://sheilabridges.com)

14. Decorating divas will swoon over these eye-catching **AphroChic** throw pillows. \$128 each, [aphrochic.com](http://aphrochic.com)

15. Artists of all levels will enjoy Andrea Pippins's **I Love My Hair** coloring book. \$15.99, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) »





# FOOD

FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY LIFE'S LITTLE INDULGENCES

**1.** Vino lovers get the VIP treatment with this exclusive wine club membership, which delivers four handcrafted bottles from New Zealand right to their front door. **McBride Sisters** Eco.love Reserve Club, \$169 for 4 shipments a year, [mcbridesisters.com](http://mcbridesisters.com)

**2.** This trio of jerk, barbecue and curry sauces brings Caribbean cooking into any kitchen. **Mrs. Muamba's** Caribbean Sauce Gift Set, \$10, [mrsmuambas.co.uk](http://mrsmuambas.co.uk) for info

**3.** Chocolate connoisseurs will melt over these delicious **Phillip Ashley Chocolates** handmade treats. \$45 for 12, [phillipashleychocolates.com](http://phillipashleychocolates.com)

**4.** They won't need a trip to the country for breakfast that tastes like it. This **Southern Culture** Holiday Breakfast Collection comes with vanilla and sweet potato pancake mixes, maple syrup and a whisk for good measure. \$50, [southernculturefoods.com](http://southernculturefoods.com)

**5.** Delight tea drinkers with the **SoRen Tea** Essence Tote Gift Set. It features a South African rooibos, tropical white peony and an organic oolong. \$57, [sorentea.com](http://sorentea.com)

**6.** With cinnamon and spices, this sweet red blend by **Edelheiss Wine** is a practical go-to for the holiday hostess. \$20, [edelheiss-wine.com](http://edelheiss-wine.com)

**7.** Your snack-time partner in crime won't be able to part with **The Cookie Kahuna** mouth-watering chocolate chip cookies made with tasty pecans. \$6, [thecookiekahuna.com](http://thecookiekahuna.com)

**8.** Available in six flavors, **Black Mamma** vodka will help your favorite barista bring the good times (and good cocktails!) to life. \$34, [blackmommavodka.com](http://blackmommavodka.com)

**9.** From red velvet to hazelnut praline salted caramel, macarons by **The Sweet Lobby** are so delectable that folks will think you bought them in Paris. \$28 for 10, [sweetlobby.com](http://sweetlobby.com) for info »





## SAY IT!

FOR THOSE BOLD ENOUGH TO MAKE A STATEMENT

**1.** The **Pop Caven** lightweight tote is a reminder of the journey. \$20, [popcaven.com](http://popcaven.com)

**2.** This **MeharyJewel** pendant necklace is #blackgirlmagic! \$125, [meharyjewel.com](http://meharyjewel.com)

**3.** The **HGC Apparel Co.** makeup pouch holds what she needs to help make her melanin pop. \$21, [hgcaparel.com](http://hgcaparel.com)

**4.** A **Made By a Black Woman** onesie is for the proud baby. \$9, [madebyblackwoman.com](http://madebyblackwoman.com)

**5.** The **Jet Black** T-shirt speaks the globe-trotter's language. \$35, [globaljetblack.com](http://globaljetblack.com)

**6.** Give them some motivation at the door with this **Baus by Victor Group** natural coir doormat. \$38, [shoppebaus.com](http://shoppebaus.com)

**7.** **Junkprints** fill-in-the-blank postcards are for the fan of affirmations. \$2 each, [junkprints.com](http://junkprints.com)

**8.** With a **Glossrags** fallen sisters tee, they can #SayHerName and wear it too. \$35, [glossrags.com](http://glossrags.com)

**9.** **Werk101 Get-Your-Life-Together Werk Book** is for the go-getter. \$15, [werk101.com](http://werk101.com)

**10.** The **125 Collection** pure soy candles are positively dope. \$32, [the125collection.com](http://the125collection.com)

**11.** They can "claim it" in 2017 with **This Is My Year Journal** by Curlbox founder Myleik Teele. \$20, [mytaughtyou.com](http://mytaughtyou.com)

**12.** Inspire them with a **Don't Sleep Interiors** pillow. \$40, [dontsleepinteriors.etsy.com](http://dontsleepinteriors.etsy.com)

**13.** Show HBCU love with this **Sweet Knowledge Clothing Co.** sweatshirt. \$55, [sweetknowledgeclothing.com](http://sweetknowledgeclothing.com)

**14.** This **Glossrags** wind jacket has a simple message: Don't sleep. \$56, [glossrags.com](http://glossrags.com)

**15.** **Bon Bon Vie** mugs affirm their beauty to the world. \$16 each, [wearbonbonvie.com](http://wearbonbonvie.com)



**Tanya A. Christian** (@tanyachristian) is an assistant editor at ESSENCE. When she's not traveling, she's looking for a new space to decorate.



**Chanel Kennebrew** (@junkprints), a prop stylist and mixed-media artist, lives in Brooklyn and Philly. Her artwork has been featured in *The New York Times*.