

Last-minute gift ideas for mom

BY KAREN GRAM, VANCOUVER SUN MAY 8, 2009



Classic pendant from the Paloma Picasso 20 Carat collection, including Citrine, Amethyst or Yellow Quartz stones. (\$1,850 to \$1,250) at Tiffany & Co.

Photograph by: Handout, files

We're sure mom will love the elegant Libre loose-leaf tea glass that she can slip into her purse for tea any time. The thermal, leak-proof glasses come in two styles: glass or glass with polycarbonate, and feature removable stainless steel filters for easy preparation. Just add hot water and go. Available for \$23.95 at Murchie's Tea and Coffee shops or at libretea.com.

You can't go wrong with jewelry, and the Foxy line is beautiful and affordable - not to mention Canadian. In particular, we like the Foxy Peace Heart Necklace (\$50) and the Foxy Starfish Bracelet (\$38), both made of silver over pewter. Available at all Blue Ruby locations (www.blueruby.com for store addresses).

Give Fruits & Passion goodies! And enter to win a Fruits & Passion gift basket. This sumptuous \$200 gift basket contains six of the most beautiful fine fragrances, including Blue, Green Tea, Orchid, Apple Illusion, Human and Grapefruit-Guava. To enter, just send an e-mail to jng@vancouversun.com with "Fruits & Passion" in the subject line. A winner will be chosen randomly and contacted by phone. Deadline is May 14.

Oh, mama, Lush has you covered. Add a Pop in the Bath Bubble Bar to your tub and soak away the stress of the day (\$5.75) in luxurious foam and pretty essential oils like gardenia. Or, grease up in the shower with the multi-tasker Ring of Roses Buttercream bar, a deliciously spill-proof way of moisturizing and cleaning skin, thanks to natural ingredients like cocoa butter (\$7.95.)

Get something for mom that is both funky and made-in-B.C. at Granville Island's Circle Craft Co-operative Shop. You'll find everything from beautiful ornaments to teapots and trinkets. We especially like this practical and stylish Anita Jackel Deggan leather rainbow bag (\$149).

Nothing gets mom to chill out quite like a spa treat. There's something about all the buffing, scrubbing, soaking and primping that really forces a gal on the go to slow down and indulge. Most spas offer gift cards, so drop one in a mushy card - make one yourself for extra points - and wait for the squeals of delight to erupt. Here are a few options: Yaletown's Skoah, a great spot for facials, is throwing in a full-sized "clean-freak body wash" (\$15 value) with every gift card purchased until May 10 in-store. Pure Nail Bar locations are giving away a free bottle of OPI nail polish (\$12 value) to anyone who books a "Mother-Daughter Mani/Pedi" (\$50).

THE blue box! Romantic types will happily cause mommy to swoon when they pull out the signature wrappings of Tiffany & Co. Inside, tuck a classic pendant from the brand's Paloma Picasso 20 Carat collection, with options including Citrine, Amethyst or Yellow Quartz stones (\$1,250 to \$1,850).

Sunday promises to be an al fresco kind of day. Why not try a picnic basket filled with viennoiserie (brioche? almond croissant? pain au chocolat? scone? fruit galette? quark cheese danish?) or finer French pastries (heart-shaped raspberry cake? chocolate pear walnut? milk chocolate with passionfruit and almond? lemon tart?). And chocolates, of course, for a fabulous finish. Thomas Haas Patisserie and Cafe, at 998 Harbourside, North Vancouver, is open Saturday but not Sunday. The shop's "Powered By Chocolate" dark chocolate-hued running and cycling jerseys by local company, Sugoi, have become an unexpected hit. Why not include one for sporty moms? Mother's Day picnic baskets start at \$55.

Give mom a getaway! The 6th annual Every Woman in the World weekend in Whistler, May 22-24, is a fantastic way to meet interesting women and try out a range of fitness options, from African dance to yoga to cycling to Nia. It costs \$319, but Vancouver Sun readers get a \$50 discount (type in discount code: VANCOUVERSUN). Information at www.everywomanintheworld.com.

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