

# Christmas shopping is like game of roulette

By ANITA ISSEN MIZNER  
Copley News Service

Successful Christmas shopping is largely a game of chance, much like poker or Russian roulette. The trick lies in evaluating the other guy's likes and dislikes while putting your own preferences on ice.

Help is oftentimes limited to a list of the recipient's sizes, favorite fragrances and colors, since personal instincts might lead a giver down the path of gifts soon to be returned. After that, the shopper is on his or her own.

But with gifts of spirits, you can unbridle your

own passions when choosing the perfect gift. Whether it's champagne, wine, beer or accessories, gifts of spirits are universal favorites. Your own tastes can help you choose a gift that almost anyone would enjoy. Why not give a bottle of that wine you savored on your fifth anniversary? Or the champagne that was the toast of the New Year's Eve party?

Here are some suggestions for gifts of spirits this Christmas:

**Wine:** The wines of Washington state's Hogue Cellars make a statement on the palate. Wine experts sing their praises, too. Last year, the 1983 Cabernet Sauvignon walked off with both

Gold Medal and Best of Show at Atlanta's International Wine Competition. The 1985 Semillon recently took a gold in Washington State and the 1984 Merlot Reserve was voted tops by professionals attending a Hawaiian Merlot symposium.

But, then, Hogue's whole roster consistently wins medals: the Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc and Fume Blanc; the Johannisberg Rieslings from Schwartzman Vineyard and Yakima Valley; and White Riesling Markin Vineyard and Cabernet Blush.

The four-year-old Hogue's distribution now covers most of the East and West, Michigan,

Ohio, Illinois, Minnesot, Alaska and Hawaii.

**Champagne and sparkling wines:** Celebratory fare at Christmas tables leads to celebratory champagne. Favorite bubbly are Krug, Bollinger, Moet-Chandon (and subsidiaries Dom Perignon and Dom Ruinart), Piper Heidsieck, Taittinger, Pommery, Mumm, Veuve Clicquot and Laurent Perrier.

A gift of champagne or sparkling wine will make anyone's day. Or year.

Recommended sparkling wines from California include Domaine Chandon, Piper Sonoma, Schramsberg, Papagni, Gloria Ferre.

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