



What's hot

The warming woolen jumpers worth wearing this winter

'The Agenda

In association with **Westfield**

Pulse points: Cocktail sets

Up your bartending game and create your favourite cocktails or mocktails at your Christmas party, with these amazing mixology sets. Cheers! By Klaudia Balogh

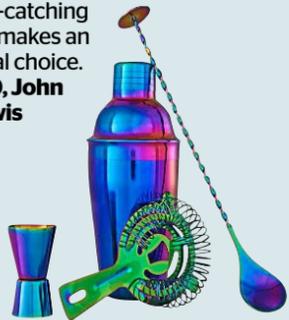
1. Cocktail glass and mixers selection

The way your mixed drinks taste is only half the fun – how they look matters just as much. Make them colourful with this set of strawberry, lime and pineapple mixers and present them glamorously in these four glasses. Great for Instagram-ready cocktails. **£19.20, Debenhams**



2. Mixology blush rainbow cocktail shaker set

Whether you want to bring out your own inner mixologist this Christmas or are looking for a last-minute gift for that budding bartender in your life, this eye-catching set makes an ideal choice. **£30, John Lewis**



3. The Connoisseur gin mixing gift set

Offering your Christmas party guests gin isn't unusual, but why not go the extra mile and make your own? This set includes all you need to create a delicious homemade spiced gin, plus a stirrer and jigger. **£25, M&S**



Christmas gifts wrapped up

The main event

Whether you've just got one more item to find or haven't even started your shopping, we've rounded up the best presents available in stores right now. By **Nadia Balame-Price**

It's the Thursday before Christmas and you still have presents to buy. But worry not: this is a judgement free, solution-providing zone. There are four shopping days left if we include Christmas

Eve (which we are because needs must) – although remember most stores will close early on that day. This means you need to divide and conquer. Who are you actually going to see on the day itself? Make sure you

have something for them – anyone you won't see until later can be worried about later. However, to avoid any awkward moments, you also need a stack of emergency

presents – those gender and age-neutral gifts that will suit anyone who turns up unexpectedly. Here are our picks of the presents you'll find in store now. Hurry, you've not got any time to waste...

For her

1. Handbags make great gifts but this year go for a backpack. Yep, backpacks are cool again, and this polka-dot leather one is the coolest. Wear it on your commute or just around town. **Limited Spot Verity backpack, £295, Whistles**
2. Pyjamas make a great Christmas gift, because it's the one time of the year it's acceptable to not get dressed until lunchtime. This set is 100 per cent cotton and comes in a chic blue stripe. **Pyjamas, £19.99, Zara Home**
3. Diptyque creates a Christmas range each year and for 2017 it has been inspired by the constellations – there's a unicorn, a dragon and a phoenix in

- the collection. A wonderful gift for candle – or mythology – lovers. **Holiday candle set, £84, Diptyque**
4. Jewellery is a gift that never fails to delight and cult Scandi brand & Other Stories has some great trend-inspired pieces to perk up any party look. **Earrings, £27, & Other Stories**
5. Winter is hard on the skin, particularly the hands, which is why a good hand cream is always welcomed. The Elizabeth Arden is not new, but it's a classic for a reason – it works. **Eight Hour Cream Intensive moisturising hand treatment, £27, Elizabeth Arden, available at Boots**

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*INDIVIDUAL STORE TIMES MAY VARY



May the force be with you this winter

Become a stormtrooper and navigate enemy territory with the new Star Wars immersive experience at Westfield London (Shepherd's Bush)

Step into a galaxy far, far away with a new hyper-reality Star Wars immersive experience at Westfield London (Shepherd's Bush).

Star Wars: Secrets Of The Empire, from Lucasfilm, ILMxLAB and The Void, transports you into the Star Wars universe, allowing you to walk freely in a hyper-reality that combines interactive sets, real-time effects and innovative technology.

Under the orders of the budding rebellion, your team will travel to the molten planet of Mustafar, your mission to recover Imperial intelligence vital to the rebellion's survival.

Alongside the pragmatic droid K-2SO, your team must navigate through an enemy facility walking into danger at every turn. Disguised as stormtroopers, grab your

blaster, solve puzzles, and fight giant lava monsters in an effort to fulfil your team's orders.

Find Star Wars: Secrets Of The Empire in The Atrium, Westfield London (Shepherd's Bush) until 7 March. Tickets are £30 during the day from Monday to Friday, and £32.50 during evenings and weekends. Book now at thevoid.com/london



Discover more at westfield.com/london



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For him

1. Cashmere jumpers make a warm, cosy and practical gift – and COS has a stylish selection. All you need to do is find the perfect colour for him. **Oversize jumper, £125, COS**

2. Everyone can use a little extra TLC around the party season. Kiehl's has created gift sets for Christmas, such as the Routine Rev Up with anti-aging moisturiser and eye-cream. **Routine Rev Up set, £61.50, Kiehl's**

3. Aftershave may be a safe gift option, but safe doesn't have to mean dull.

Tom Ford Black Orchid is a rich, dark wintery scent he'll love. **Black Orchid 50ml edp, £82, Tom Ford at The Perfume Shop**

4. Since its re-launch a few years ago, Shinola's leather goods have gained a bit of a cult following, particularly the stylish watches such as the Canfield. **The Canfield 43mm, £645, Shinola at Ernest Jones**

5. A man can never have too many socks, and these cotton blend J Crew ones are warm and stylish enough to be worn year round. **Socks, £16.50, J Crew**



Tech

1. The future is robots – but it's hard to get too worried when they're as cute as Cozmo. A miniature robot that likes to learn and play games, it can be upgraded by your own coding. **Anki Cozmo Robot, £159.99, John Lewis**

2. Sonos is arguably the best digital music system available and this new version is voice activated and can be integrated with the Amazon Alexa, so all you need to do is ask for the song you want to hear. **Sonos One, £199, Sonos**

3. First there was the Switch and now Nintendo has brought out the SNES mini. Great

for anyone who grew up playing on a Super Nintendo. **Super Nintendo Classic Mini, £99.99, Game**

4. For anyone who is into photography and technology, a drone is a great present – and the DJI Spark consistently tops the charts. **Spark Drone, £449.95, DJI available at Apple**

5. Virtual Reality is the next big step in tech and the Oculus Rift is leading the charge. Watch films, play games or just discover what VR is really about with this set. **Oculus Rift VR headset and controllers, £399.95, John Lewis**



Foodie

1. A hamper is a real Christmas indulgence and always makes an impressive gift. This M&S hamper comes with wine, cheese, biscuits, ham and a festive bottle of sherry. Plus, it's already in the sale. **Hamilton indulgent Hamper, £80, Marks and Spencer (reduced from £100)**

2. A carafe this pretty makes a great addition to the table of anyone who loves hosting. It can be used for water or wine and the gold pattern means it brightens up any festive meal. **Floral doodle carafe, £15, Oliver Bonas**

3. Know someone who loves baking and chocolate? Then this hamper is

perfect for them. It comes with different types of chocolate, cocoa nibs, cocoa powder and a cookbook of ideas. **The Home Baking Gift Hamper, £65, Hotel Chocolat**

4. When you're trying to cut a cake, making sure you get an equal slice for everyone can be tough. This baking tray comes with a cake slicer that fits perfectly, so there are no arguments. **Berghoff perfect slice square baking tray, £16, House of Fraser**

5. Move over BBS, there's a new favourite in the Star Wars universe – Porg. The latest, cutest, addition to the series can be found in egg cup form – and it's perfect for when



Emergency presents

1. Everybody loves chocolate, which makes these the perfect, "Oh of course I didn't forget you" gift. And if the guest is vegan or doesn't eat chocolates, the packaging is pretty enough for them to re-gift. Win, win. **Milk sea salt bil-lionaires shortbread truffles, £14.50, Charbonnel et Walker**

2. A bottle of bubbly is a reliable gift at Christmas when we are all eating, drinking and being merry. Nyetimber is an English sparkling wine, which makes it a little more interesting than the usual champagne. **Nyetimber Classic Cuvee, £34.99, Waitrose**

3. A candle is a safe present for pretty much anyone, which makes it the king of emergency gifts. This White Company winter signature scent has notes of cinnamon, clove and orange. **Winter signature candle, £20, The White Company**

4. A mug will always be well received, especially if like this ceramic one it not only supports the National Trust but also comes with tea bags. **National Trust mug, £8, Debenhams**

5. Like them or loathe them we'll be seeing at lot more of the Royal Family next year... So learn to recognise the distant cousins before the wedding thanks to this game of Royal Bingo. **Royal Bingo, £19.99, Foyles**

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it's no longer ok to have chocolate for breakfast. **Star Wars Pop Home: Porg Star Wars egg cup, £15.99, HMV**



This winter's knit-picks

The trend

Whether a chunky number or cable design, roll-necked or embellished, 'tis the season to wear woollen jumpers. Here **Bibby Sowray** looks at what's hot...

There's little more comforting than a chunky knit. Thankfully, the AW17 runways were awash with woollen wonders and exciting new ways to wear them, meaning knits are all of a sudden this season's hottest ticket (literally). For the past two winters, I've lived in a heavy roll neck from & Other Stories, in grey and navy; wide cut, slightly longer at the back than the front, with a thick funnel-like roll neck that holds its shape and ribbed fold-back cuffs. This season it's also available in a rich turquoise, reminiscent of a covetable super-knit that appeared in Balenciaga's AW17 collection, styled with a floral pleated midi skirt and over-the-knee sock boots. They haven't become misshapen or bobbed in the way that many knits do after numerous tumbles in the machine and multiple wears. But most of all, they are incredibly warm – and, really, that's the point of knitwear, isn't it?

This winter – and likely into next spring, too – I'll be wearing them with loose-fitting, wide-leg, tailored trousers, like those on Joseph's AW17 catwalk. Another knit that swept the catwalks was the oversized, slouchy sweater. At Chloe it was paired with a lace-trimmed mini, at Pringle loose mannish slacks. The key is to size-up when buying for the louche, roomy look. Most fitting for this time of year is the party knit, as seen at Delpozo; a cosy jumper embellished with all manner of pretty things – pearls, paillettes, sequins or embroidery.

Sparkle is always big news come party season, but this year more than ever thanks to the abundance of glitter on the catwalks. Consider it a woollen that will see you through the party season in comfort (rejoice, no more shivering as you wait for your taxi home). Just pair with your favourite jeans and some kitten heels for a minimum effort, maximum output look.

Joining the party knit at the more playful end of the big

AW17 runways were awash with woollen wonders and exciting ways to wear them

knit spectrum is the intarsia and Fair Isle jumper. Loewe's version has become a hit with the fashion pack, incorporating the brand's logo into the colourful geometric design, as has Prada's harlequin-esque cardy, but there's also ample accessible alternatives available.

Rounding off this knitwear note is the humble cable knit, a trusty perennial you are sure to wear year after year – Mango's cornflower blue version is a worthy update that would look great layered over an oversized shirt.

Jumpers for joy: clockwise from top left, knits from the Balenciaga, Chloé, Prada, Delpozo and Loewe catwalks



1. Sequinned jumper, £49.99, Zara; 2. Cable knit roll neck, £39.99, Mango; 3. Fair Isle jumper, £275, Joseph; 4. Roll neck, £69, & Other Stories; 5. Mohair jumper, £239, Sandro

For more last-minute Christmas gift ideas, visit standard.co.uk/theagenda

The perfect presents for a post-Christmas pampering session

What to do between the hubbub of Christmas and hedonism of New Year? Relax, of course. By **Edwina Langley**

It's an age-old question: what to do between Christmas and New Year? You've eaten your body weight in food, you've drunk your cupboards dry. You need a bit of a break before New Year's Eve, some time to relax and rejuvenate, but any sort of "spa" scenario is out of the question. So what to do? Self-pamper of course.

How wonderful would it be to turn up at that NYE soiree all fresh-faced and ready to get your groove on again, not feeling like it's the final stint of some over-indulgence triathlon – one you have to "survive" rather than enjoy?

Very wonderful, is the answer. So prepare for it now. But don't rely on Father Christmas to get you what you need for your mini "me-time" holiday. Get it for yourself – and pronto.

Face mask

Fancy a face mask which absorbs oil and impurities and helps to cleanse your skin? Thought so! Clinique's Pore Refining Solutions Charcoal Mask uses – yup, that's right – charcoal powder. It soaks up all that rubbish clogging up your pores and it dries in roughly 10 minutes. No hard work? That's how we like it. Clinique pore refining solutions charcoal mask, £24 for 100ml, Boots



Shampoo and conditioner

Spent so much on your family and friends you have precisely no cash left for that much-needed cut and blow dry? Treat yourself to some excellent shampoo and conditioner instead. Aveda Shampure shampoo uses Morikue protein to both clean and strengthen your hair. Pair with the Aveda Shampure conditioner and you'll emerge from that shower feeling like you've had an hour in the salon.

Aveda Shampure shampoo 250ml, £14.50, and Aveda Shampure Conditioner 250ml, £16.50, both House of Fraser



Bath oil

When it comes to long soaks in hot tubs it's best to turn to the pros. Jo Malone is a leader in the bath oil department, and its Pomegranate Noir version is one of its most aromatic. In the brand's own words, it's like wearing a "daring red dress". In our words, who doesn't want to be the lady in red? With pomegranate, raspberry and plum, it's fairly sweet. But don't think "sickly" sweet – it's "spiked" with pink pepper, Casablanca lily and spicy woods. Rich and luxurious, it moisturises and



nourishes the skin. And it should very much be by your bathtub this Christmas time.

Pomegranate Noir bath oil, from £18 for 30ml, Jo Malone

Candle

If you have never smelled the sweet fragrance of a Diptyque candle, er, where have you been? This Parisian brand is the business. From rose to jasmine, fig to verbena, it's the go-to brand for luxury candles. While any would fill your house with a heady aroma, our favourite is the gardenia – a floral fragrance of white flowers and jasmine. Diptyque gardenia scented candle, £45, John Lewis



Hand lotion Look at your hands. Are they cracked? Overworked? Seen



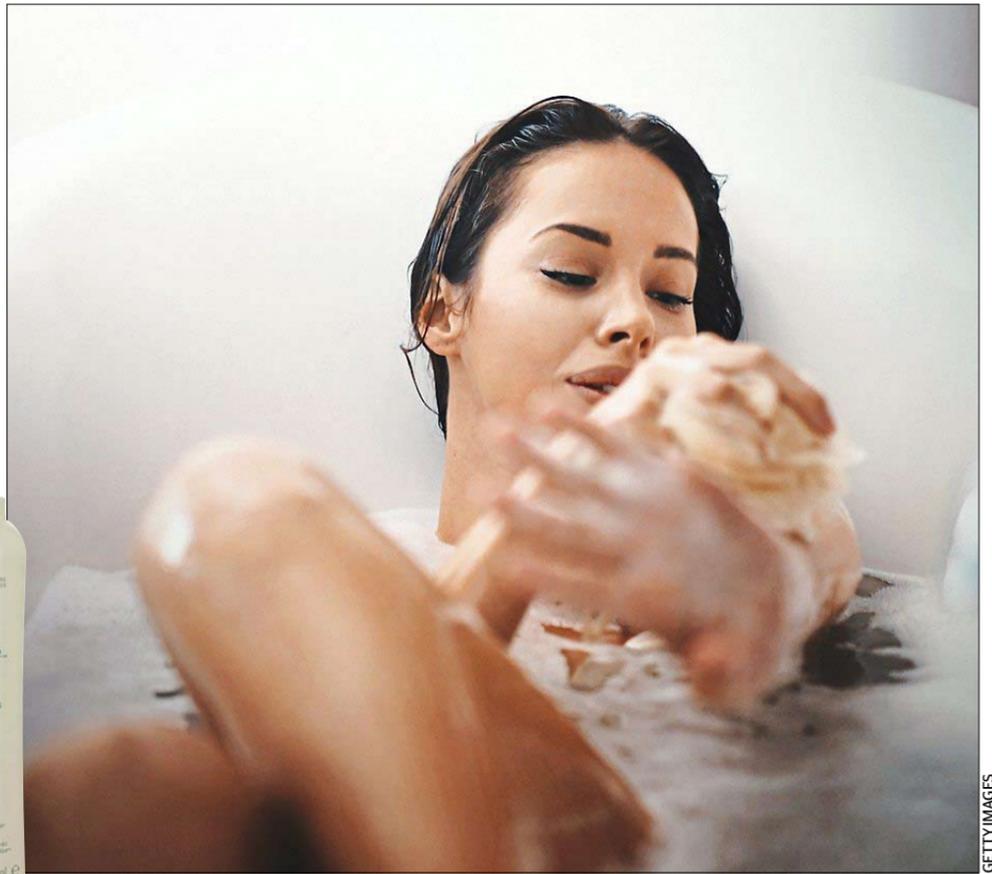
too many dishes? Crying out for some TLC? Molton Brown to the rescue! The new black peppercorn hand lotion combines pepper with coriander and basil to produce a delicious-smelling cream that serves to hydrate the skin. A Christmassy spicy fragrance, it leaves your mitts feeling soft and nourished, and ready to take on the washing up once more. (Just

what the self-pamper doctor ordered... sigh!) Black peppercorn hand lotion, £20, Molton Brown

Cashmere-covered hot water bottle

It's Boxing Day and you're all cosy and warm on the sofa watching It's A Wonderful Life. Only you're not cosy and warm because the boiler has broken and you can't find a plumber

to fix it. The self-pampering solution? A luxurious cashmere-covered hot water bottle. For this, we must turn to the home of cashmere, The White Company. With cable knit design, its cashmere hot water bottle in cloud marl looks elegant enough to wear, and it's so soft and – with hot water inside – warm, you'll never want to let it go. Luckily, that's the good thing about spending all day on the sofa on "TV" Boxing Days: you won't have to. Cashmere hot water bottle in cloud marl, £70, The White Company



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