

hint

THE ULTIMATE GIFT GUIDE



SURVIVE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND COME OUT AHEAD WITH
OUR SELECT GIFT GUIDE FOR GUYS

CONTENTS

FOR THE DRINKER

Our largest section, we have wine and spirits from around the globe and for many different tastes. Plus a cocktail book with a literary shake-up.

FOR THE THINKER

Some awesome books to stretch the grey cells and some beautiful Aussie-made accessories for those of a sartorial mindset.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Dream of roads yet walked in a fascinating read and a beach towel with magical powers to keep life on the road easy and entertained.

FOR THE HAPPY AT HOME

A cracker of an autobiography, the ultimate coffee machine and a couple of recipes to win party acclaim.



An aerial photograph of a beach with turquoise water and white waves. Several people are visible on the sand and in the shallow water. The text is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

SOMETHING I WANT,
SOMETHING I NEED,
SOMETHING TO WEAR,
SOMETHING TO READ.

GIFTING PROVERB



EDITORS' NOTE

Hi and thanks for downloading this Christmas edition of Hint!

Whether you're looking for gift inspiration for a loved one or you yourself have been stumped by the tricky question of "What do you want for Christmas?", there's something here to help you.

Mainly because I was put in charge of choosing the products to feature, but also because men seem more difficult to buy for than women, Hint! is essentially a gift guide for blokes.

That's not to say only men would like the things here. Far from it.

But I chose the things within these digital pages on the basis that they would please me if they were waiting for me under the tree this Christmas.

Anyway, we hope you find this gift guide e-zine useful and enjoyable, and that it leads you to a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

JIM & CHRISTINA BUTCHER
FOUNDERS, MR & MRS ROMANCE



WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN? REALLY.

It's been a long time since the commercialisation of Christmas put Santa in his Coca-Cola-red suit. And even longer since the Church marketing board rebranded the pagan winter solstice celebrations.

As generations go by, the meaning of Christmas evolves into something new and different. These days, the memories and meaning to Christmas are different for every single person you meet.

Christina and I both love Christmas – though for different reasons and definitely with different ideas of what the festive season means.

For me, coming from the UK and a non-religious background, Christmas was always a chance to relax, do little, and eat and drink a lot.

A sign of a warm house while the weather outside gets colder. Big dinners with all the family, where everyone over-indulges then lazes in front of the TV while the wind howls outside.

For Christina, being a December baby, it not only means Christmas but also birthday parties. And coming from Australia, she thinks of hot days, beach time, seafood, cold drinks and spending lots of time outside.

Either way, we both love Christmas and the opportunity to spoil one another a bit.

However, there's always a lot of pressure around this time of year to buy everyone you've ever met the best present they've ever had, to catch up with all of your friends and see everyone before the year ends as if after Dec 31, things will never be the same again.

You end up feeling frazzled when it's supposed to be a fun holiday.

If that's what you want, then by all means, have a splendid Christmas and I hope you don't burn out by January 1! But if it's not, then you should focus on what you want Christmas to be.

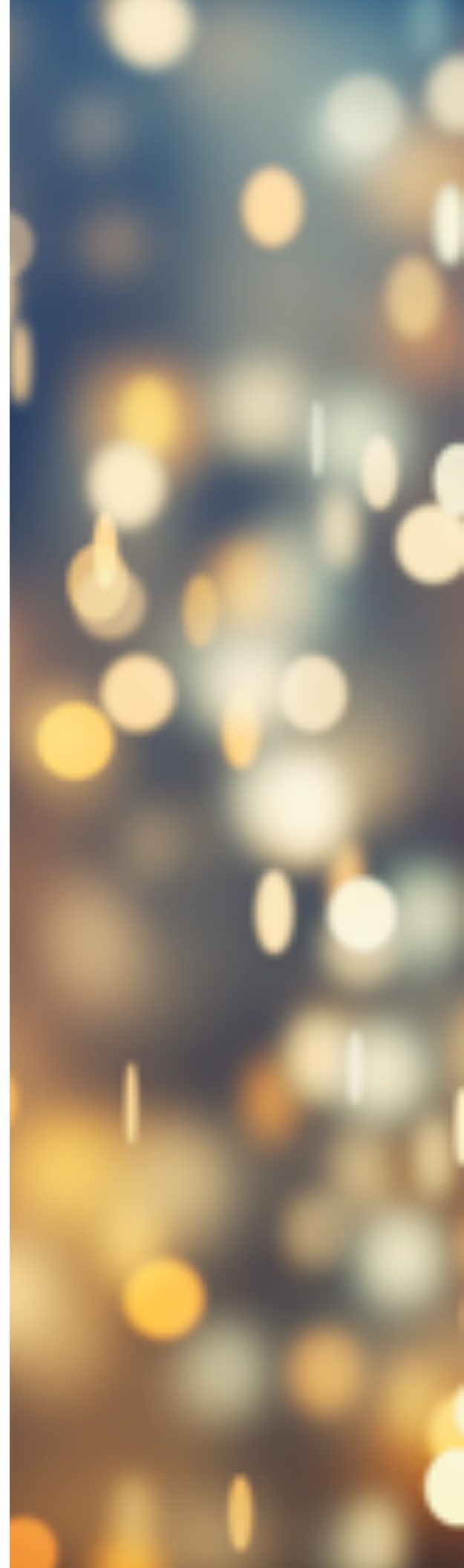
CHRISTMAS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TIME FOR GIVING. SO, REMEMBER TO TREAT YOURSELF TOO.

Don't feel obliged to spend a fortune on stuff people will only half enjoy - or maybe even just throw away. It's crazy. Choose your presents carefully and gift with your conscience.

Promise a catch-up in the new year and pencil something in now - this is a crazy time of year to see people anyway. And if Christmas is a significant spiritual time of year for you, then go to Church or do what you need to do.

Christmas is supposed to be a time for giving. So, remember to treat yourself too.

PS: this is why we've put this gift guide together and why it's called Hint! It's not only a guide for people shopping for others; you might find something in here for yourself... in which case, you can give your loved ones a Hint! too.



EVERY CELEBRATION STARTS WITH CHAMPAGNE



One of the oldest existing Champagne houses, the House of Lanson is a highly regarded, family-run estate and whose family has been crafting champagne since 1760.

Black Label NV shares elegance of fresh flowers and honey aromas with rich ripe fruits and sharp citrus flavours.

Perfect as an aperitif, even better as a gift.

[\\$49.99 from Dan Murphy's](#)



Taittinger is now one of the last remaining great independent Grande Marque Champagne houses that's owned and managed by the family whose name is on the bottles. Founded in 1734, it's also one of the oldest remaining houses.

This Taittinger Brut Reserve is unusual in that it has a particularly high percentage of Chardonnay (40%), which you don't usually see in a non-vintage Champagne.

[\\$49.95 from Dan Murphy's](#)



FOR THE DRINKER

WHISKY

I've really fallen for Australian whisky. There's something about it that's just so... unbridled.

Japanese whisky has become incredibly popular in the last few years. It's not only grown a following within the grizzled aficionado crowd, but more importantly from people with previously no interest in whisky.

With more and more American whiskeys becoming popular (and more available) in Australia, it's good to see something other than the more predictable Jack D, Wild Turkey or Jim Beam.

MATSUI THE KURAYOSHI MALT WHISKY

This pure malt whisky is typically Japanese, with clean, fresh flavours, approachable mouthfeel and elegantly simple aromas.

Its palate is balanced with sweet and tart, and manages to be an easy-drinker in spite of its slightly higher ABV of 43%

\$99 from Dan Murphy's .

STARWARD TWO-FOLD WHISKY

Starward have created this local double grain whisky using wheat and malted barley.

The whisky is then aged in Aussie wine barrels to impart the fruit-driven and vanilla flavours of this very likeable dram.

You'll find hints of Fuji apples, roasted pineapple and spices in this versatile Melbourne whisky.

\$65 from Dan Murphy's

BUFFALO TRACE STRAIGHT BOURBON

Coming from the world's most awarded distillery in the heart of Bourbon country Buffalo Trace's best release – their Straight Bourbon – is an easy bet.

Easy drinking but plenty of flavour, this Bourbon is sweeter than most. It's woody, with hints of orange and very approachable. This whiskey is perfect in an Old Fashioned or maybe in a Manhattan.

\$54.90 from Dan Murphy's





SHAKEN - 007 COCKTAIL BOOK

A clever blend of real-life anecdotes of Ian Fleming's love of spirits and extracts from Bond ordering his preferred tipples. From the suave Bond martini to Fleming's terrifying fireball of a rum punch he favoured in Jamaica, this book is an insight into both the author and his creation, and where truth and fiction blend like gin and vermouth. [Get it here.](#)



CELLAR OR CELEBRATE

GIFTS TO GIVE NOW AND ENJOY LATER

MCWILLIAMS MCW RESERVE 660 HILLTOPS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

This hearty medium-bodied 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is vibrant and herby, and its silky cassis and chocolatey palate match the classic style of this wine variety.

Pair this with pork and veal meatballs or slow-cooked beef and creamy polenta or by itself.

Can be cellared until 2028.

\$23.99 from Dan Murphy's

MCWILLIAMS MCW RESERVE 660 CANBERRA SYRAH 2016

A luxuriant wine with oaky spices, silky tannins and lively red fruit. This medium-bodied Syrah fits with the move in Australia towards a more refined palate. Less grunt, more grace.

Pair this wine with a rack of lamb and grilled eggplant, roasted tomatoes and black olives for this beauty.

Can be cellared until 2026.

\$23.99 from Dan Murphy's



CELLAR OR CELEBRATE

GIFTS TO GIVE NOW AND ENJOY LATER

MCWILLIAMS MCW ALTERNIS TOURIGA 2017

Touriga is a Portuguese grape that delivers a juicy, vibrant flavour full of cherries and violets, but with a velvety, savoury finish. And this McW Alternis Touriga is right on the money.

The 2017 vintage celebrates 140 years since Samuel McWilliams planted the family's first vines near Corowa, NSW.

Can be cellared until 2022.

\$29.99 from [Vintage Cellars](#)

COOMBE FARM CHARDONNAY 2017

Coombe Farm Estate is a 100-year-old winery in Melbourne's Yarra Valley.

Cool nights over summer give this wine a mineral acidity with a complex stone fruit-driven intensity that's made to linger in the mouth with the clever use of French oak barriques.

Cellar until 2026 or drink immediately!

\$37.00 from [Coombe Farm Estate](#)



STONE PINE

STONE PINE

CABERNET

BRANDY LIQUEUR

AGED 6 YEARS

LIMITED EDITION

AUSTRALIAN CRAFT SPIRITS

SOMETHING RARE

Stone Pine Distillery in Bathurst, NSW is a one-man-show craft distillery. Making some of our favourite gins, black spiced rums and grappa, distiller-owner Ian Glen is nothing short of a genius.

Every year, Ian brings out a special edition gin like the Orange Blossom Gin and the extraordinary Black Truffle Gin, which I hope he makes again.

This year, Stone Pine has two special releases that would make incredible Christmas gifts.

STONE PINE LIMITED EDITION CABERNET BRANDY LIQUEUR

The perfect Christmas sip, this limited edition liqueur from the amazing brain of Ian Glen at Stone Pine Distillery is a work of art.

The process of making this spirit is fascinating. Taking a 2011 cool-climate Cabernet Sauvignon from Bathurst's



wine region, Ian pot-distilled the wine then aged it in French oak for 6 years.

Ian then blended the aged spirit with red grape juice to create this deep ruby liqueur with an oak blessing that softens the sweetness and adds further texture.

Sipped neat with a cheeseboard or after dinner on its own, this is a special drink.

[\\$50 from Nip of Courage](#)

STONE PINE DECADE DRY GIN

A bit like Apple's iPhone X, this gin is a celebration of Stone Pine's first ten years of mastery. And just like the iPhone X (I'm a fan), this gin is truly remarkable. Fittingly, 10 botanicals make up a smooth, juniper-forward, citrusy beauty of a gin.

And the four Aussie botanicals Ian Glen has included in that 10 – lemon myrtle, saltbush, flinger lime and ironbark – lead this gin to a savoury, balanced finish that's essentially Australian.

[\\$85 from Nip of Courage](#)



3/4 OF YOUR G&T IS TONIC



The craft gin movement is a wonderful thing. Especially when you see things like this little New Zealand distillery turning out marvels like their Scapegrace Dry Gin.

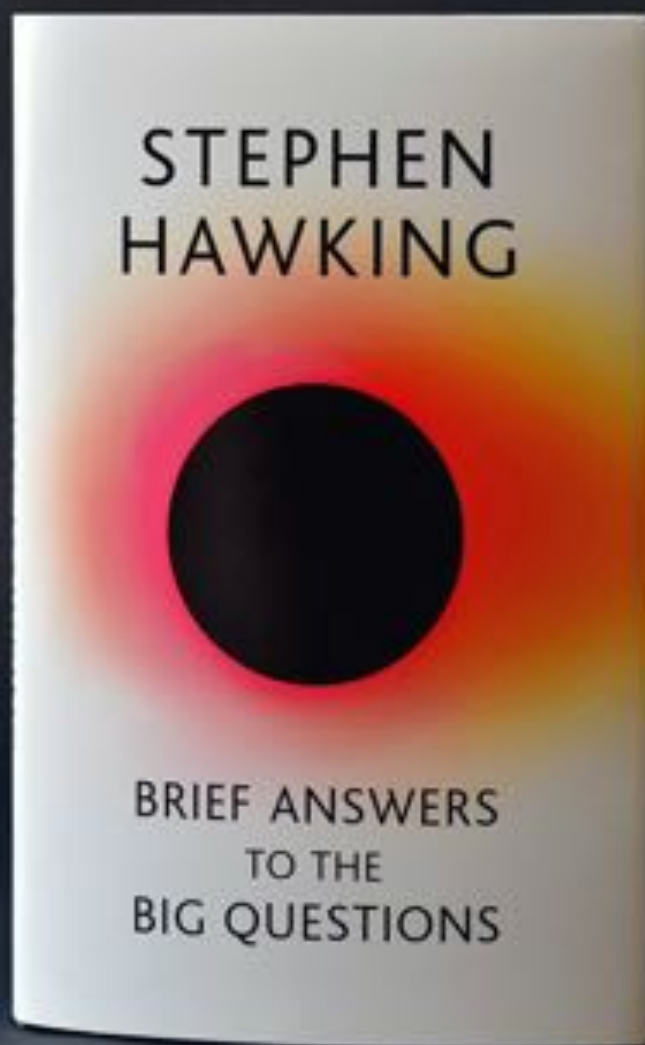
Their story's amazing – including the name change from Rogue Society to Scapegrace (watch the video) – and their products are



splendid. 12 botanicals with orange and lemon leading the way bring a deliciously clean, bright gin.

Perfect as a martini or a negroni, or in a G&T with Fever-Tree's Mediterranean tonic. All with a slice of orange peel, please.

[\\$79.99 from Dan Murphy's](#)



BRAND NEW PAGE-TURNERS

FOR THE THINKER

STEPHEN HAWKING - BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Eminent theoretical physicist and influential thinker, Professor Stephen Hawking gives short, concise answers to some of the world's biggest questions.

Is there a God? Can we predict the future? What's inside a black hole? Will AI outsmart us?

These are some of the things Professor Hawking puts his incredible mind to and answers with aplomb and a ready wit. The perfect gift for big thinkers – or very nosy people!

[Shop now](#)

Note: A percentage of all royalties from this book will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the Stephen Hawking Foundation.



PETER FITZSIMONS - MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

The latest in Peter Fitzsimons' armoury of historic tales, the Mutiny on the Bounty is perhaps one of the most famous naval yarns. But far from re-rolling old rope, Fitzsimons paints a whole new picture on this adventure at sea.

Meticulous research, and bold and enthralling story-telling bring this classic swashbuckler alive.

An ideal buy for naval history fans, but also for anyone who wants to know more about what happened in this ill-fated mission.

[Shop now..](#)

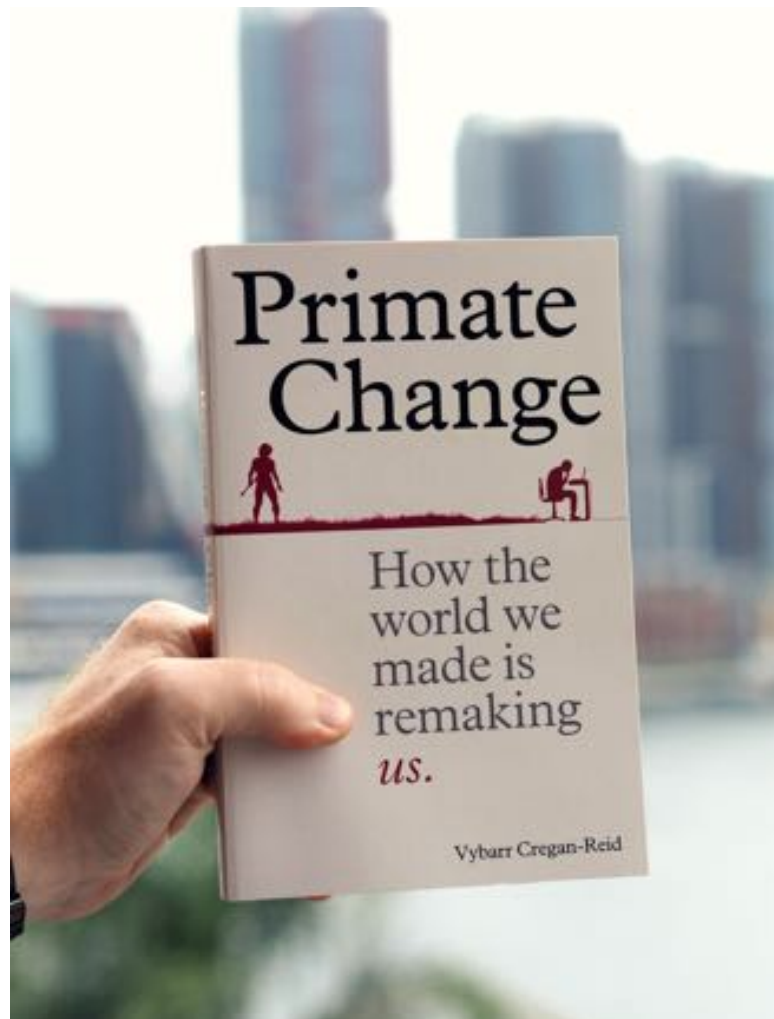
PRIMATE CHANGE - HOW THE WORLD IS REMAKING US

Primate Change puts us as a species on a microscope slide and adds droplets of time to see how our very DNA has altered over the millennia.

This thought-provoking book looks at where we came from, how we've changed over time and what the outlook is for mankind in a epoch of extreme change.

Will we continue to thrive, or will we struggle to survive? This is an exploration into the very future of our species.

[Shop now.](#)





THOUGHTFUL ACCESSORIES

BUCKLE | 1922

Started in 1922 by a father-and-son team from Sydney, this men's clothing brand still holds onto its original doctrines of craftsmanship and quality. The story behind this almost-100-year-old company is fascinating.

The son – Alick Buckle – was the mayor of Mosman in the '20s; he opened Balmoral Beach's Bathers' Pavilion and named the island there after his daughter Peggy.

Peggy eventually came to run the family business until 2013, when it changed hands and changed name to Buckle | 1922.

Now, the company's clothing accessories are just as beautiful and stylish as they always were, and are still made lovingly by hand from the factory in Stanmore, Sydney.



CARNIVAL POCKET SQUARE

I've recently come round to the idea of wearing a pocket square in my suit jackets. It lends a beautiful finish to an outfit and adds a splash of colour to often quite monotone men's fashion.

The red spots (and stripes on the reverse) work well with the deep navy background. Striking yet somehow subtle.

\$24.00 from [Buckle | 1922](#) or in stores.



THE HAVANA LEATHER BELT

Hand-crafted in Buckle|1922's Stanmore factory by a team of 13 through a process of 21 different steps, this belt feels and looks the quality. The pride in the workmanship is clear, down to the detail of the names of the people who made it stamped on the inside of the belt.

Full-grain natural leather with nickel buckle. Width: 35mm

\$74.00 from [Buckle | 1922](#) or in stores.



FOR THE TRAVELLER

SAND-PROOF TOWELS

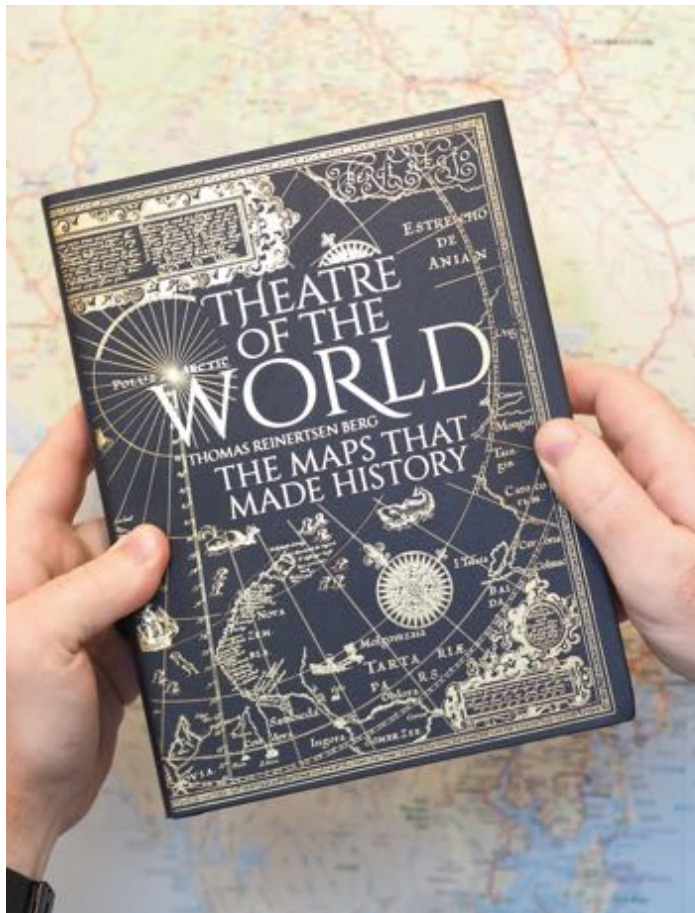
There's nothing worse than coming out of the surf and trying to dry yourself off on a towel that feels like it belongs more in a woodwork shop than your possie at the beach. And when it's time to head home, dragging a soggy sand-filled towel with you isn't fun either.

Tesalate has developed a beach towel that's not only absorbent, but that also repels water like magic, folds away to nothing and weighs less than a bottle of sun cream.

How?

I dunno. But it's clever. They've made their towels in a wide range of cool colours and patterns too, so you've got plenty to choose from.

This is our favourite: [The Swell](#)



FOR THE TRAVELLER

THE MAPS THAT MADE HISTORY

There's something about looking at a map that fills me with excitement. The promise and potential to see the places before me - it's like travelling without moving.

But cultural and scientific author and journalist Thomas Reinertsen Berg takes things a step further. From Stone Age symbols to Google Earth, this book explores the known (and unknown) world through its own portraiture.

Perfect for the explorer at heart and the history buff at soul. [Shop here.](#)

FOR THE HAPPY AT HOME

CREATURE COMFORTS

Last year we upgraded to the Nespresso Vertuo system and we haven't looked back.

The difference between an espresso shot from an original machine and a Vertuo machine is significant. With the Vertuo, flavour notes are more developed, texture is creamier, and the crema is enormous, rich and indulgent.

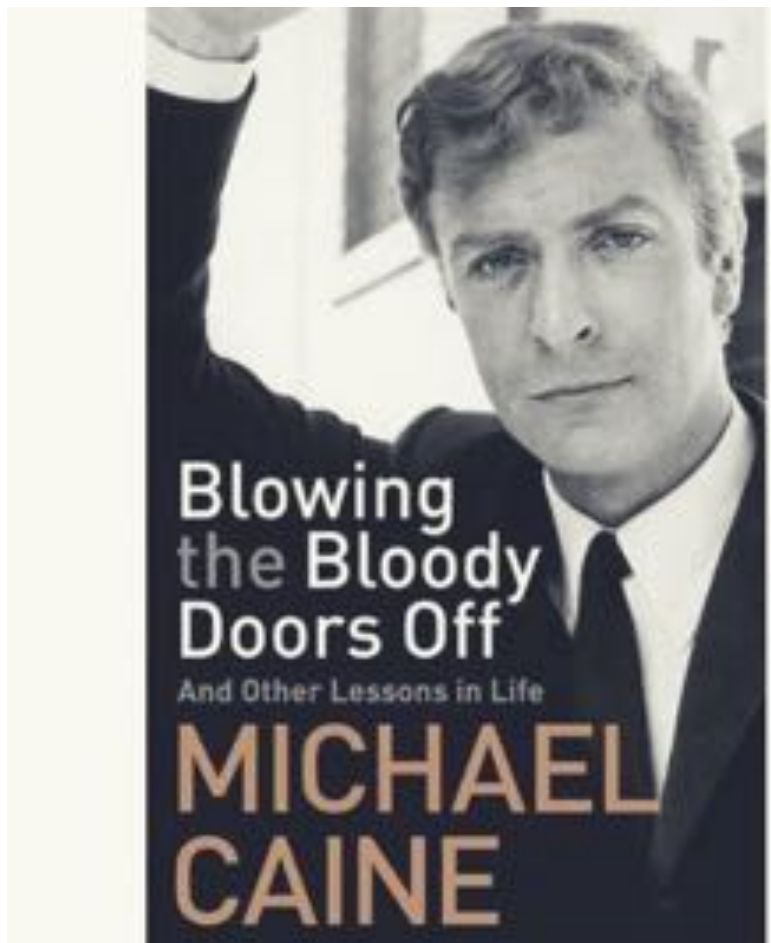
Shop now: [Nespresso.com](https://www.nespresso.com)

SIR MICHAEL CAINE - BLOWING THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

Right from the introduction when a young Michael Caine tells of his first encounter with legend John Wayne, you're hooked. There's no way possible to put this book down once you've started, so beware!

After starring in over 100 movies, Caine is telling it how it is, how it was and how it should be in his latest autobiography.

Full of incredible anecdotes and a wealth of life lessons, this is an easy buy for the film-lover in us all. [Shop now.](#)





FOR THE HOME HANDSOME SKINCARE

Handsome Skincare's tagline, "Not tested on animals, only the handsomest of men" makes me like this brand even more.

Most guys need a hint when it comes to skincare, and they'll feel comfortable using a brand that knows what guys want.

They feature lots of botanical extracts (mostly organic) and have a cedarwood-based natural fragrance.

Perfect for the happy at home or the traveller. [Shop here.](#)



MAKE THIS!



FESTIVE RICOTTA WREATH WITH PESTO EGGS

With all the parties going on over Christmas and the Aussie summer, it's always fun to bring a new dish to the table.

This wreath-shaped pastry dish ticks a lot of boxes: it looks festive, it's pretty, it's bloody tasty and it has the wow factor to impress the guests.

It's a salami-lined puff pastry ring full of delicious herby ricotta cheese, dressed with pesto-coated eggs and fresh tomatoes. It's an instant favourite.

This recipe can be easily scaled up by joining 4 sheets of pastry together and doubling the rest of the ingredients. It'll make a mighty wreath though, so make sure you can fit it in your oven. It might be worth just making two of these!

TIPS:

For a vegetarians, omit the salami and ensure the cheese is vegetarian. You can make this tart a day ahead and keep it refrigerated. Bake, then serve top with tomatoes, eggs, pesto and basil.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 cup (240g) ricotta ½ cup basil, finely chopped, plus extra leaves, to serve
- 1/3 cup (25g) finely grated parmesan
- Salt and pepper
- 100g mixed medley cherry tomatoes, halved
- About 14 thin salami slices
- 3 medium boiled eggs, peeled
- 1/3 cup (90g) store-bought basil pesto
- Milk to brush on pastry

Serves: 4

Prep: 20 minutes

Cooking: 20 minutes



METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 175°C fan forced. Lay baking paper on a tray to form a large square. Then lay out the pastry sheet and cut the corners off to form a big circle.

2. Mark a circle in the centre of the pastry disc so there's about 15cm in from the edge all the way round. Cut 8 triangles from the centre in to the edge of the marked circle, which will fold over to the outer edge of the wreath later.

3. Mix together the ricotta, basil, parmesan, salt and pepper. Pile the mixture on the pastry ring, leaving a 1cm border from the outer edge. Arrange the salami slices on top of the ricotta.

4. Fold the 8 triangles of pastry over the mixture and salami, lift the outer edge of the pastry ring and press the point of the triangles in to seal on the outside edge. Brush the pastry with milk. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown and pasty is puffed.

5. Carefully roll the eggs in pesto, halve and place onto the wreath. Scatter with tomatoes and drizzle with remaining pesto. Scatter with extra basil leaves and serve.

WISHING YOU A
SAFE & HAPPY
HOLIDAY & HERE'S
TO A GREAT 2019!



MRANDMRSROMANCE.COM