

Suburban Elite

2007-2008

A GIFT FOR GIVING



ideas for everyone on your list...

By Brooke Perry

Not everyone on your gift list will be satisfied with the next generation iPod or X-Box 360. For some, a nice showerhead or a new sauté pan are all they're after. Here are a short list of over-the-top gift ideas that are sure to spark celebration this holiday season.

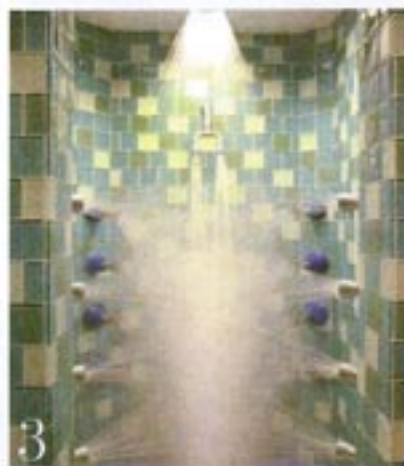
Test-Drive Vacation Home Ownership: How many times have you said you'd like to live at your favorite hotel? Now, at The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman, you can sample life the-Ritz-Carlton way with a new Long-Term Rental program that allows you to "test drive" a luxury vacation home experience for 30 days with no further commitment. You'll have access to all the services and amenities of the new Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, a \$500 million showplace complete with

a Nick Bollettieri-designed tennis center, a La Prairie spa and an extraordinary Ambassadors of the Environment children's program run by Jean-Michel Cousteau. But you'll never have to feel too far from home—celebrated chef Eric Ripert of New York's top-rated Le Bernardin is at the helm of Blue and Periwinkle, two restaurants that confirm why he's earned Michelin's coveted three-star rating. Thirty days in paradise ranges from \$15,000 to \$40,000, depending on your month of choice. For details, see www.residences-cayman.com.

Kitchen in a Box: Who better to craft a collection of essential culinary tools than the kitchen wizards at the Culinary Institute of America? For more than 60 years, the Hyde Park-based institute has been the Harvard of culinary train-

ing schools, turning out some of the world's most celebrated chefs. Now, all that expertise is at your fingertips with the Instant Gourmet Kitchen, an 80-piece collection designed by Certified Master Chefs of The Culinary Institute of America. With everything from sauté pans to pizza wheels, the Instant Gourmet Kitchen will inspire everyone from kitchen apprentice to accomplished home cook. The price of culinary greatness? \$5,000, including free shipping, at www.ciacook.com.

Water World: No ordinary shower, the SilverTAG Shower is the invention of celebrated spa designer TAG Galyean, the "king of hydrotherapy" and go-to designer to some of the country's most well-known spas. It features 18 showerheads, divided into six zones,



OPPOSITE PAGE: The Instant Gourmet Kitchen, an 80-piece collection designed by Certified Master Chefs of The Culinary Institute of America. (TOP LEFT) 1: the Residences at The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman; 2: Dylan's Candy Bar, the premier specialty candy purveyor on Manhattan's Upper East Side; 3: the SilverTAG Shower is the invention of celebrated spa designer TAG Galvan, the "king of hydrotherapy"; 4: Blue Star Jets' SkyCard offers an inventory of jets, worldwide.

and a computer-controlled touch screen programmed to vary temperature, pressure and time with unprecedented speed and precision. Shower sequences such as Think, Tonic, Spa, Rain, Anti-Stress and Never-Ending ensure you'll never think of your morning ritual in the same way again. At \$100,000 per custom installation, this commercial-caliber shower may be the best investment you'll ever make. For details, go to www.tagsignature.com.

Join the Jet Set: Nothing quite says "you've arrived" like, well, arriving in your own jet. Now you can forego the sometimes stratospheric membership fees associated with fractional aircraft ownership in favor of something that works a lot like your debit card. Blue Star Jets' SkyCard offers unprec-

edented convenience and flexibility, whenever you need to jet. SkyCards are available in increments starting at \$50,000; use your card to book one of over 4,000 aircraft in the Blue Star inventory worldwide, including LearJets, Gulfstreams and Bombardiers. Get started at www.bluestarjets.com.

The Sweet Stuff: Take a stroll down memory lane with a colorful, collectible Candyland metal bucket from Dylan's Candy Bar, the premier specialty candy purveyor on Manhattan's Upper East Side. It's filled to the brim with more than 40 time-honored candy classics—think Chunkys, Candy Buttons, Pixie Sticks and Junior Mints. The store is the inspiration of Dylan Lauren, daughter of iconic designer Ralph Lauren, so natu-

rally there's also a line of adorable Dylan's-embellished apparel. The cost (excluding subsequent trips to the dentist): \$199, plus shipping, at www.dylanscandybar.com.

Working with a bigger budget? Consider the Regent Seven Seas' Chocolate Cruise aboard the luxurious all-suite Regent Seven Seas Navigator. The seven-night voyage departs Ft. Lauderdale on December 11, en route to Princess Cays, San Juan, St. Thomas and Nassau—and chocolate nirvana. Christophe Michalak, head pastry chef at the acclaimed Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris, boards as resident chocolate expert, teaching any aspiring chefs aboard a few tricks of his trade. Fares from \$1,998 per person at www.rssc.com. ■