

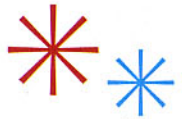
Alaska Airlines

NOVEMBER 2006

Vertical Challenge

Skiing the West's
top winter resorts



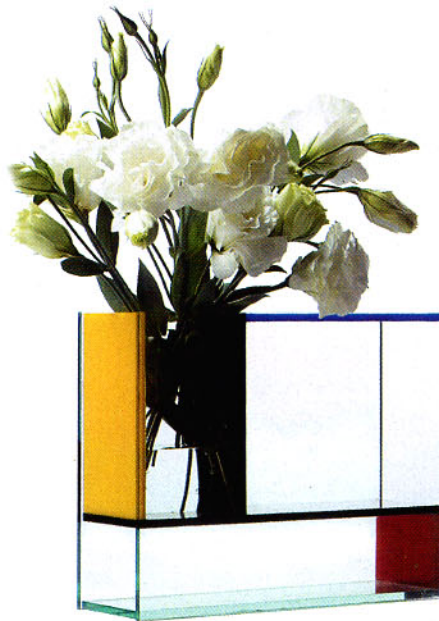


Museum Pieces

Museum shops have some of the hottest gift ideas of the season.

* **MONDRI VASE**

This multipositional vase, designed by Frank Kerdil and sold at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, is based on the modern artistry of Piet Mondrian (\$65; www.sfmoma.org).

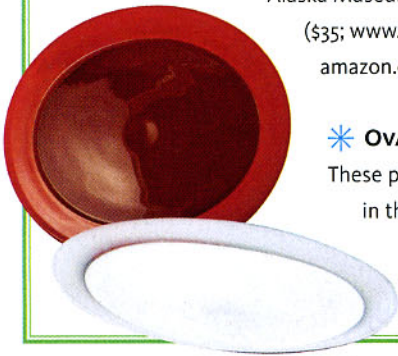


* **LOOKING NORTH**

This book, edited by Aldona Jonaitis and published in 2005 by the University of Washington Press, presents a comprehensive look at art from the University of Alaska Museum (\$35; www.amazon.com).

* **OVAL PLATTERS**

These platters from Washington artist Jan Elek were fired in the hot shop at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington, and are a simple but powerful mark of sophistication (\$210; www.museumofglass.org).



Customization is a rage in the surfing world, and the **PSYCHO II Z.E.N.** full-body wetsuit from O'Neill is a great gift for those who like to catch some waves (\$409.95; www.oneill.com). For versatility, try the **J-BAY**, an inflatable bodyboard and snowsled that features a slick bottom, raised side wings and easy-to-grip handles to navigate all of the most formidable moguls and rolling waves (\$79; www.cheetahtradingco.com).

Give the golfers on your list gifts they'll appreciate. The **C-CLIP** from Fine Tune Golf allows golfers to organize accessories such as glove grips, divot tools, ball markers and tee holders in a convenient, durable belt clip (\$15; www.finetunegolf.com). To help heat up the cart on chilly mornings, give Coleman's portable **CARTCAT CATALYTIC HEATER**, which offers up to 3,000 BTUs of heat (\$79.99; www.golfdiscount.com). A third good gift for your favorite golfer is the **GOLF SCOPE**, an eyepiece designed to help players determine just how far up the fairway they've hit the ball (\$27.97; www.thegolfcollection.com).

Time for Tea

Tea has become an immensely popular gift. Here are a few of the remarkable teas and accessories available this season:

* **NUMI TEA**

Numi's Flowering Tea Bamboo Gift Set is a bouquet of nine hand-sewn rosettes containing organically grown premium tea from China, attractively packaged with a small glass pot in a mahogany and bamboo chest (\$37; www.numitea.com).



* **STASH TEA**

This tea prides itself on using only the top two leaves and bud of the tea plant. The result is a full, flavorful tea, in bags or loose in tins (www.stashtea.com).

* **PORTSMOUTH TEA**

This tea, which is available in a number of gift sets, includes varieties such as Napoleon's Dynamite, a rich, black blend; and Blood Orange, which boasts orange peels, apple bits, hibiscus and rose hips (www.portsmouthtea.com).



* **TEA FORTÉ**

Tea Forté's unique pyramid-shaped infusers come filled with a wide range of black, herbal, green and white teas, available in beautiful ribbon boxes and gift tins. Create a complete tea set for the special person on your gift list with Tea Forté's elegantly simple tea trays, plates and covered porcelain café cups (www.teaforte.com).