

San Francisco Chronicle

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THE LIST

CUPID GETS CREATIVE

A heart-shaped box of candy, a bouquet of long-stemmed roses, a heady perfume: Valentine's staples we've all come to know but not necessarily love. Instead of the expected, consider a twist on a classic gift this year with these luxe local finds.

— Sara Irvani



Carmel Valley Ranch

BURNING LOVE

Craft a signature scent, and a romantic memory, when you and your honey attend a beeswax candle workshop at Carmel Valley Ranch (\$50 per person). Create candles using fresh herbs and blossoms from the property's organic garden and lavender essential oil from its River Ranch. 1 Old Ranch Road, Carmel; www.carmelvalleyranch.com



Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle

NEW BLOOMS

Show that your relationship can survive the drought. Give an artful, handmade succulent garden from Flora Grubb nursery instead of an average bouquet. Even better, visit the shop and make a long-lasting arrangement together while sipping Ritual Coffee from its in-store outpost. Prices vary by size and type. 1634 Jerrold Ave., S.F.; www.floragrubb.com



Stella McCartney

NAUGHTY & NICE

Lock eyes on Stella McCartney's sexy, silky Grey Valentine briefs. The playful panties, with delicate side boxes and flirty floral band-cuff embroidery detail, give frilly pink lingerie a run for its money and nod to the film everyone will be whispering about this weekend. \$75. Stella McCartney, 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; www.stellamccartney.com



Seven Stills of SF

SWEET SIPS

Skip the confections and let the connoisseur in your life unwrap a bottle of Seven Stills of SF's Chocasmoke Whiskey instead. The Potrero Hill distillers make the subtly sweet whiskey in small batches from smoked chocolate oatmeal stout. \$37.95. Seven Stills, 435 23rd St., S.F. or one of their many Bay Area retailers. www.sevenstillofsf.com



Jilly Ink

PAPER HEARTS

Love notes shouldn't be relegated to one day. Handcraft Valentines year-round with rubber stamps by Oakland calligrapher Jilly Ink. Her anatomically correct heart stamp sends an edgy message while her hand-lettered "love is all you need" is perfect for everyday affairs. Just add paper. \$30 and up. www.jillyink.com



Warby Parker

GOLD STANDARD

Diamonds aren't the only way to shine. Give a glam gift with Warby Parker's Marple sunglasses in gold. The high-fashion frames available in the brand's new San Francisco store are perfect for last-minute shoppers hoping to impress style-savvy sweeties. \$145. 357 Hayes St.; www.warby.com