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Gift Guide Part 2: The Holiday Spirit(s)

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By: Matt Iverson

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The following three suggestions have been vetted not only by yours truly, but also by a handful of trusted confidantes and lovers of fine spirits around town. So seek these bottles out, with the assurance that soon your loved ones will be filled with the holiday spirit, one way or another. And a merry Saturnalia/Yule/Festivus/Boxing Day to one and all!

***Smooth Sailor: Kirk & Sweeney's 12 Year Rum***

There are only a few truly awesome bottles of rum on the market; of those, Kirk & Sweeney stands out, holiday-wise, by joining quality product with classy, high-gift-quotient packaging. The rounded bottles with decorative etching certainly make an impression right off the bat, and luckily what's inside is none too shabby either: nutty and earthy, like freshly made pralines, with tantalizing vanilla notes and great texture ... and if the finish was any smoother I would have given it my phone number. Delicious sipped on its own, it also makes for a phenomenal hot buttered rum, to my mind one of New England's most perfect contributions to world gastronomy ... right after chowder and Ben & Jerry's. Costs about \$44.