

A Russian entrepreneur recently commissioned Turin-based baker Dario Hartvig to make an 80,000 euro *panettone*; to date, the world's most expensive.

Festive Florentine gifts

Spread your love of Florence this Christmas



The holiday season is here! And with it comes the joy of giving inspired gifts to friends and family. If you're an expat, you have the added challenge of finding presents light and small enough to mail overseas or to fit in a suitcase. The editors of *The Florentine* share some of Florence and Tuscany's neatest gifts.

10 euro or less

Lovebite anyone

Treat your family to a taste of Tuscany, without wrestling with an oversized *panettone* box or the weight of a bar of tooth-tough *torrone*. Vestri's exquisite Lovebites made from the finest cacao beans and hazelnut nibs are sure to score some brownie points with the folks at home: 9.80 euro, from Vestri, borgo degli Albizi 11R, www.vestri.it

Boar Hunters in Tuscany is a beautiful, dual-language book by famed Tuscan author Dario Castagno and Irish photographer Fionn McCann: 40 euro, from B&M Books, in borgo Ognissanti 4R



Bottles of love

Spread the love this holiday season with Officina de' Tornabuoni's beautifully presented Love set. Cradled in a classic red box, four individually scented aromatherapy shower gels come in single bottles that relax, bring harmony, fortify and energize: 48.50 euro, from Officina de' Tornabuoni, in via del Parione 52R, www.officinadetornabuoni.com.



Gobble it up

The next best thing to eating food is looking at food. Enjoy a guilt-free holiday season by indulging in a culinary illustration by Emiko Davies. Penned individually by hand using Emiko's own tried-and-tested recipes, these sketches are good enough to eat: 30.25 euro, from theflr.net/w2fgw5



Stick 'em up!

A wonderful idea to decorate your child's room and encourage the little ones to play and imagine. Chispun wall stickers give them yet another reason to grow up with a smile on their face: 29.50 euro from Baby Bottega, via il Prato 53-55R, www.babybottega.com.

51 euro or more give back



Orange palms scatter cushion

Looking for something uplifting and cheerful to brighten up the home? Expat designer Rebecca Milner's fun prints bring the warmth of the Mediterranean indoors. Palm trees, lazy tigers and zig-zag flowers offer a whimsical touch this Christmas and beyond: 52 euro, from www.paripassi.com.



3D printed jewels

The new wave of Italian artisanship uses techniques like 3D printing to make unique objects that cannot be produced by hand. The Dentelle bracelet's intricate honeycomb structure is flexible and visually interesting. Bright colours and professional finish make this colourful bangle a real show-stopper: 69 euro, from MakeTank theflr.net/dentelle



Not your granny's knitting

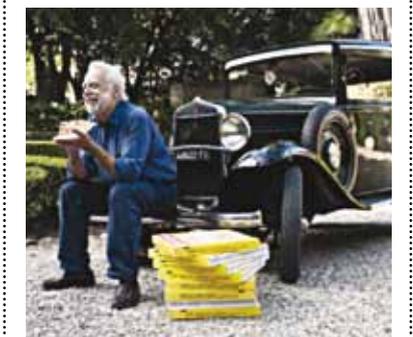
We love BettaKnit's fun attitude and funky knits! This year we're lusting after the Very Snood. The perfect gift for a craft lover, the kit includes everything needed to make a neck-warmer/hood. 93 euro, from BettaKnit theflr.net/bksnood. BettaKnit is offering a special 10% discount to TF readers until December 31, 2013: just use the code TFGIFT at checkout.



Pick up a Christmas hamper, cosmetics and a range of other Tuscan gifts from the **Emergency Store** in via de' Ginori 14, open until December 24; see www.emergency.firenze.it.



Meyer Children's Hospital offers a wide variety of Christmas cards and decorations; see <http://theflr.net/ip3ycf>. Give back and indulge at the same time with a FILE panettone or pandoro for 16 euro; e-mail file@leniterapia.it.



Light up children's eyes with a festive candle (10 euro) from the **Unicef Shop** in via dei Serragli 188R; see regali.unicef.it. Head to any Runner Pizza shop in Florence and buy a classic cars-meets-sports celebrities calendar (7 euro); proceeds go to the Tuscan cancer research association A.T.T. See theflr.net/yc6zmj for more information.

11 to 50 euro

'Boared' of reading?

Looking for an unusual yet authentic book about Italy for your loved ones? *Il Distretto 9 del Chianti: Chasing Boars and*