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# Tom Doorley

GIFT CHOICE

# Eat, drink and be very, very merry

*A feast of culinary delights to tantalise the foodie in your life*

## HIGHBANK ORGANIC FARM

[highbankorchards.com](http://highbankorchards.com)

Rob and Julie Calder-Potts produce all sorts of things from their organically grown apples at Highbank near Kilkenny, including a soon to be released rum based on apple molasses. Give a taste of what they are doing in the form of the Highbank Hamper at €79, including apple syrup, cider, apple 'brandy' liqueur and more.

## VALENTIA ISLAND VERMOUTH

[valentiaislandvermouth.ie](http://valentiaislandvermouth.ie)

With cocktails becoming hugely popular again you are sure to know someone who would appreciate a bottle of this unique vermouth. It's flavoured with wild foraged plants from the island of Valentia on the Kerry coast, based on Spanish wine and sweetened with caramel. Invented by the wife-and-wife team of Anna and Orla Snook O'Connor.



## FRANK HEDERMAN

[frankhederman.com](http://frankhederman.com)

Frank Hederman produces some of the finest smoked salmon at his Belvelly Smokehouse near Cobh in east Cork. But there's more to Belvelly than salmon — cold and hot smoked. Consider his smoked mussels in mustard vinaigrette, the smoked chilli flakes that I can't live without, and his amazing smoked farmhouse butter.

## HUNGRY CROW CHOCOLATES

[hungrycrow.ie](http://hungrycrow.ie)

I first encountered Niamh O'Reilly's exquisite truffles in the English Market in Cork and have been a fan ever since. Not only are they fabulous (using only 72% and 85% cocoa solids), no grains or grain derivatives are used and they are 100% vegan, so no worries if there's a dairy



issue. Gift boxes range from €12.30 to €36.90.

## KINNEGAR BEERS AND MORE

[kinnegarbrewing.ie](http://kinnegarbrewing.ie)

The Kinnegar Brewery in Co. Donegal has an iconoclastic and humorous character running through all that they do. The beers are fabulous, quirky, delicious and their artwork (based on the mythical Kinnegarland) is fun. Choose from beer tasting packs, table lamps, beanie hats, glasses, hop and hemp soap, T-shirts, hoodies and even cushions! The online shop is a taste of heaven for real beer fans.

## SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD IRELAND

[sustainableseafood.ie](http://sustainableseafood.ie)

Niall Sabongi (of Klaw and Seafood Café fame) runs this wholesale and retail business with the emphasis squarely on sustainability. I can imagine few people who would fail to be bowled over by one his Deluxe Seafood Hampers (€175), the tasting trio of three different caviars (€120) and I wouldn't say no to a dozen Kelly's native oysters (€26).

## BOYLE'S IRISH GIN

[aldi.ie](http://aldi.ie)

Do you know someone who really enjoys their gin? And maybe they like to experiment with different brands? Boyle's Irish Gin, made for Aldi by the Blackwater Distillery in Co. Waterford, is my house gin, so to speak, and I believe that it puts many dearer gins — some costing twice as much — to shame. In fact, it's a revelation to most gin lovers that this one, selling for €24.99, can taste so expensive!



## LILLIPUT STORES HAMPERS

[lilliputstores.com](http://lilliputstores.com)

The inimitable Lilliput Stores, near Stoneybatter in Dublin, offer a bespoke hamper building service and have a glorious range of delicious things always in stock. You can get the ball rolling online



Lovers of seafood will be 'bowled over' by this deluxe hamper, €175, from Sustainable Seafood Ireland

by ticking a checklist of things that you would like to include and then you can fine tune. Bear in mind, though, that it's a collection-only service.

## LAKEVIEW SINGLE ESTATE WHISKEY

[waywardirish.com](http://waywardirish.com)

Maurice and Francesca O'Connell have produced Ireland's first single estate whiskey at their home, Lakeview, near Killarney where the family has lived for 900 years. The single pot still whiskey was made from barley grown on the estate and aged there in what the O'Connells call their 'house of contentment' to take advantage of the mild, wet climate for maturation. It's simply fabulous and eminently collectable at €195.

## BLAS BOX

[irishfoodawards.com](http://irishfoodawards.com)

Blas na hÉireann, the Irish Food Awards, are offering a selection of winning products in their Blas Box, deliv-

ered anywhere in Ireland, for €140. There's Moinéar Strawberry Wine, Grá Mint Hot Chocolate, Mella's Salted Caramel Fudge, Blanco Nino Tortilla Chips, Skellig Cranberry Sauce and much more. Order by emailing [info@irishfoodawards.com](mailto:info@irishfoodawards.com)

## GOATSBRIDGE TROUT FARM

[goatsbridgetrout.ie](http://goatsbridgetrout.ie)

Mag and Ger Kirwan's Goatsbridge Trout Farm in Co. Kilkenny have a lot more to offer than just rather lovely fish. There's smoked trout pâté, trout caviar, fish chowder and a great cookbook written by Mag and 78 Irish 'fishwives', sold in aid of Hospice Africa Uganda. There's an easy to navigate online shop and a Taste of Goatsbridge Hamper for €55.

## WATERFORD DISTILLERY

[waterfordwhisky.com](http://waterfordwhisky.com)

Mark Reynier's Waterford Distillery is revolutionising Irish whiskey, even reverting to the spelling 'whis-



ky'. His commitment to the concept of what the French call terroir (how geology and weather affect wine) in whiskey is unique and Waterford's single farm origin whiskeys are a revelation. The latest addition to the range are two peated whiskeys, the first in centuries to use Irish peat. A whiskey collector would love anything from here.

## CLOUD PICKER COFFEE SUBSCRIPTION

[cloudpickercoffee.ie](http://cloudpickercoffee.ie)

Cloud Picker are very picky about coffee: not just about the flavours and styles but also the origin and sustainability. They also roast to order weekly and offer a whole range of subscription offers. The recipient gets a delivery every month — and you can set the grind size, bag size, kind of coffee and frequency. You can sample their coffees at the Cloud Picker Café on Pearse Street.

## COOLATTIN CHEDDAR

[coolattincheddar.ie](http://coolattincheddar.ie)

Tom Burgess has been a dairy farmer in West Wicklow for over two dec-



## ORLA WALSH PRINTS

[orlawalsh.com](http://orlawalsh.com)

Nostalgia and food make a potent combination and Orla Walsh's prints awaken certain sweet yearnings in me. These bright and colourful prints are full of joy, bringing back childhood memories of Easi Singles, Cadbury's Mint Crisp, Dib Dabs and more. Mounted and framed, they cost €78, unframed €38. Limited to 100 prints of each image.

## HIGGINS' BUTCHERS

[higginsbutchers.ie](http://higginsbutchers.ie)

Higgins' are no ordinary butchers. They specialise in absolutely superb meat and their online shop is a joy to navigate. Do you know someone who could use a whole suckling pig from Segovia for €150? Or a steak box with two rib-eyes, two striploins and a great big 24 ounce T-bone for €60? Grass and grain-fed beef can be compared for €135, and there are Hardcore Carnivore seasonings and rubs.



## SEAGULL BAKERY

[seagullbakeryshop.com](http://seagullbakeryshop.com)

Sarah Richard's Seagull Bakery is one of my regular ports of call, both in Tramore and Waterford city. Far-flung fans will now be delighted to be able to order online for nationwide delivery. Hampers featuring fabulous baking and more are available from the €55 Coffee Hamper to the decidedly decadent Christmas Day Hamper at €165. I'm putting one of their gift vouchers on my list!



## THE REAL OLIVE COMPANY

[toonsbridgedairy.com](http://toonsbridgedairy.com)

Choose from Irish halloumi and scamorza or a brilliantly international selection of olives, Italian and Spanish cured meats, and all manner of condiments, oils and seasonings. There are also hand-made cards, hampers and food boxes (including the seductive one for cheese, sherry and almond lovers).