

# FRIDAY FOOD

\$73



rick's picks™ **windy city wasabeans™**  
soy-wasabi green bean pickles  
NET WEIGHT: 15 OZ. (427G)

rick's picks™ **bee'n' beez™**  
sliced bread-and-butter pickles  
NET WEIGHT: 15 OZ. (427G)

rick's picks™ **phat beets™**  
pickled beets  
NET WEIGHT: 15 OZ. (427G)

rick's picks™ **smokra™**  
pickled okra with smoked paprika  
NET WEIGHT: 15 OZ. (427G)  
hand-packed & all natural

## Tasteful gestures

The grocery guide to saying 'thank you' for less than \$20

BY LISA AMAND

If you have generous, creative friends who like to throw dinners and parties over the holidays, you don't want to show up without a gesture of your own.

As you spent the day polishing your nails and fixing your hair, they've been tearing theirs out: clearing a cramped apartment, cleaning, cooking and getting ready to share their largess. The least you can do is bring a gift for them to enjoy on their own, something beyond a perfunctory bottle of wine that'll no doubt be consumed that night.

A present for your hosts should be special and delicious, a little luxury they'll enjoy and savor long after you're gone.

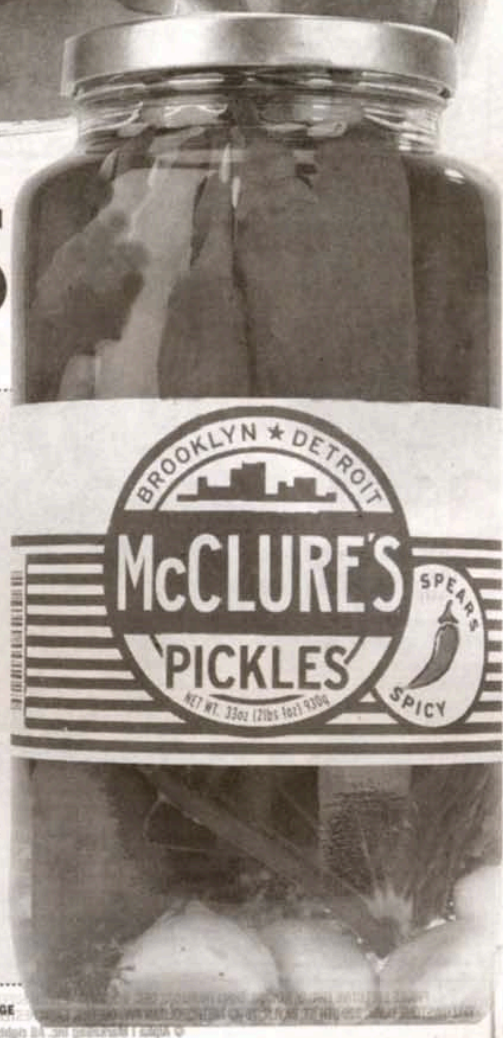
Luckily, there are plenty of unisex, pan-holiday friendly goodies — lovely jars, bottles, tins and tubs — that won't break your holiday budget and that you can keep stockpiled for weeks to use for hostess gifts, last-minute visitors and that round-robin gift party you always forget about at work.

The worst-case scenario? You get to enjoy a few of these treats yourself at the end of the year.

### HANDCRAFTED PICKLES

There are now a handful of local picklers capturing the old-fashioned romance of putting by, so you can support a local business while you ply your friends with beautiful brined beets, curried green tomatoes, asparagus spears or the new "Smokra" from Rick's Picks. The 16-ounce jars are \$8 at Union Square and Grand Army Plaza greenmarkets, Manhattan Fruit Exchange in Chelsea Market and Gourmet Garage. Meanwhile, McClure's Pickles' superspicy mix of ruby red peppers and forest green pickles is practically putting the holiday in a jar. They're \$12 at the Bedford Cheese Shop in Williamsburg, 229 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, (718) 599-7588.

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