

## Making spirits bright, bubbly and light

No gifts, no glory — yes, it's that time of year. The quest for lasting value made our holiday shopping different this year. Quality trumped quantity, an old-fashioned notion that's new again and, when we did the math, affordable. We took our Champagne-tastes and found indulgences, luxuries, treats and all kinds of surprises on an (artisanal) ginger ale budget. The challenge made us creative. We're delighted with the high-low mix. And as you wrap your selections — with shiny paper we know you bought on sale on Dec. 26 — we know you'll be basking in the giver's happy glow.

— *Beth Hughes*



**An eco-friendly water carbonator, \$199.95.**

Williams-Sonoma.com, transforms tap water into custom-carbonated sparkling water for homemade sodas. Or spritz a single malt chilled with whiskey stones that don't dilute the drink, \$24 per box of nine, GivenOnline.com. Our penguin sports a sequined plaid scarf, \$175, Barneys.com when partying.

**On the cover:** Sprinkles cupcakes, more info on Page 7.