
COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Advent calendar special



The A-Z of Christmas: perfect parties, presents, great gifts and splendid food



Moncler ski clothing and accessories are ideal Christmas gifts for snow worshippers

read her novel, *Darling* (a retelling of Nancy's Mitford's *The Pursuit of Love*), twice and listened to the audiobook read by Sophie Winkleman, too. Safe to say I am a fan. £14.99, from all good bookshops.

Start your perfect colour from scratch—what a glorious present for the lady who has everything. Bespoke Lipstick Bar, £80, Makeover, £75 (07894 413895; www.codeeight.com)



James McDonald, Helen Cartwright, Sophie A. Stoddard

Wrap stars

Well done! You've bought the presents, but now you have to wrap them. Colford is a new company specialising in considered present wrapping that will elevate corporate and private gifting in a responsible way. With so many hidden plastics, dyes and other nasties, Businesswaste.co.uk states that about 108 million rolls of wrapping paper are used each year in the UK. Recycling it all would use 70% less energy than making it again from raw materials. Here, Colford shares a few tips for wrapping sustainably—but, if in doubt, ask them to wrap the lot for you: avoid shiny, glittery or heavily foiled papers, as these usually cannot be recycled. Matt, uncoated papers are more elegant and are widely recyclable—as well as often cheaper—and swap out plastic-based sellotape for biodegradable double-sided tape. This will give a neater finish, too. Use lengths of paper offcuts



in a complementary tone instead of non-recyclable ribbon (which often contains plastic). It's great for covering any untidy folds and everything can be recycled together (www.colford.co.uk).

Silky way

This shirt (right) is designed for men, but I would happily swan around in it at winter dinners through to summer evenings. The beautiful silk twill and charming laurel-and-star pattern (from one worn by Noël Coward) are timeless, so I am hoping for a miracle under the tree this Christmas, £790 (www.toron.studio)

Classic beauty

THANK goodness my face guru Dr David Jack has reformulated his clever trio of products for all skin types. With a good cleanser, this is literally all you will need. First is Good Morning—a powerhouse antioxidant serum that brightens; next comes All Day Long to moisturise with SPF 50. Finally, before bed, Good Night is a regenerating cream to repair with a punchy, but nourishing retinoid, together with peptide and antioxidants that boost repair. You'll wake up fresher faced. The aforementioned India Knight is a lover of the Good Morning serum—enough said. Daily Skin Trio, £304 (www.drdauidjack.com).



A new castle in town

The Walmer Castle (left) on Notting Hill's Ledbury Road, London W11, has had a facelift courtesy of husband-and-wife team Jack and Poppy Greenall, with interiors by Isabella Worsley and eclectic art curation by Olivia Paterson. The upstairs room offers elevated pub dining (the whole space would be perfect to rent for a party) and a lighting expert has subtly installed many ultra-flattering lighting options in the different spaces. Book now for cosy Christmas get-togethers or a more decadent party in one of the private rooms (www.walmercastle-nottinghill.co.uk).