

# Holiday gift guide: Luxury within reason this season

By Mary Cadden, USA TODAY

Luxury is not necessarily about a lavish price tag. It's about "elevating the ordinary to something extraordinary," says Cara May, director of shopping at FineLiving.com. USA TODAY asks May for a few budget-friendly luxury gift ideas.

## The gift

## The details

### Under \$25



**Make them melt:** "Luxury is inherent in things that delight the senses," May says, "and who wouldn't delight in the aroma of melted chocolate?" This fondue set decorated in snowflakes, which includes six forks, "is meant to be shared. It's festive and so easy to use. Just put a tea light in the bowl, and it melts the chocolate." \$16.95 at [Crateandbarrel.com](#).

**Bedazzle them:** A great gift for a couple, this bejeweled chrome cocktail shaker decorated with rhinestones "is inexpensive and useful but also has sparkle," May says. "And a hand-mixed cocktail" is much more luxurious than one "just blended in a glass." *Bejeweled cocktail shaker*, \$24.95 at [Organize.com](#).

### Under \$50



**Bowl them over:** Leisure time "is a luxury in itself," May says, so why not play it up? The chrome bocce set "adds an extra sparkle" to what would be an ordinary backyard game. \$39.99 at [RedEnvelope.com](#).

**Get them in a lather:** Spa soaps shaped like the hot stones you would have in a spa will tickle your sense of smell with luxurious aroma. "They are not only beautiful in presentation, their scents of mint, ginger and green tea help create a spa-like atmosphere," May says. *Spa soap stones in an apothecary jar (pictured, \$46) or a gift box (\$34) at Uncommongoods.com*.

### Under \$100



**Warm their very soles:** "Luxury is taking something good and making it better," May says. "A soft towel is good; a soft and heated towel is better." May suggests not saving this "everyday luxury" for towels alone. "The warmer is also great for your socks, your bathrobe or your house slippers." \$79.50 at [FrontGate.com](#).

**Heat the rest of them, too:** You don't need the luxury car to enjoy luxury options like seat warmers. This portable model "allows the recipient to move the seat from one car to another, which is a great feature," Mays says, "especially for older passengers, where the heat is beneficial to your back." \$79.95 at [Brookstone.com](#)

Fondue set by [Crateandbarrel.com](#); shaker by [Organize.com](#); bocce set by [RedEnvelope.com](#); soap by [Uncommongoods.com](#); seat warmers by [Brookstone.com](#); towel warmer by [Frontgate.com](#)

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