

Shops to Love in 2008

Shopping editor Antonella Nardulli reveals her personal picks for the year. Dec 31, 2007

As the shopping editor for toronto.com, I've been exposed to way too much nice stuff in 2007, and as a girl who loves to shop, I want all of it. Here's what I'll have my eye on this year:

1. [Sephora](#)

There's something instantly gratifying about buying new beauty products. For that, I head to a place that's pure eye candy -- Sephora. While I'd love anything from this beauty haven, I'm currently craving something Tarte -- a makeup line with "skininvigorating" ingredients that improve the health of your skin. For that perfect flush, give me Tarte's Cheek Stain (\$28), or their antioxidant-packed foundation, Smooth Operator (\$35). Sephora also has plenty of petite treats for stocking stuffers including my favourites, the Bourjois' award-winning lip glosses (\$18), Sephora Matte Blotting Film (\$10), and the Hard Candy Delinquent Mini Nail Kit (\$25).

2. [Red Pegasus](#)

A neighbourhood shop in Little Italy full of charming gift ideas, Red Pegasus is one of those places where I can spend some well-wasted time browsing their selection of funky jewelry, crafty gifts, home décor, cards, beauty products, even plush toys. Some notable items on my list include a selection of Foxy Originals Whisper necklaces (\$36), and Whisper earrings (\$26). Also, great hats by Lizzy (\$45) and Gold Hoop necklaces by SOOS (\$40).

3. [Tiffany & Co.](#)

Do I really have to explain this one? For the holidays, Tiffany got into the festive spirit with a collection of "winter" charms. Some of my favourites are the Snowflake tag charm in sterling silver (\$105), and the Skier charm with diamonds, an amethyst, an emerald, and blue sapphires in platinum (\$1,550).

4. [Jacflash](#)

This new addition to West Queen West and family-owned boutique proves that great taste runs in the family. Father and daughter team Geoff and Jaclyn Genovese have put together a collection of fashion-forward pieces that can take you from a casual soiree to an ultra-glam bash. I'm loving the Alice + Olivia gold sequined tank-dress (\$575) and black-sequined top (\$525).

5. [Girl Friday](#)

Trendy and affordable, Girl Friday is one of those little gems in the city, that feels like I've walked into my fashionable friend's walk-in closet where I can find everything to dress myself from head to toe. Their racks are filled with all the "must haves" of the season. Purses and belts hang from hooks on the walls and a dress cabinet is filled with jewellery. I always see something I want, and this month it's the new Hobo International Katrina Clutch in crinkle patent leather (\$88). And to go with it, one of Rebecca Nixon's (owner and designer) beautiful party dresses (\$150).

6. [Umbra](#)

Affordable, stylish and modern, Umbra offers an excellent assortment of home accessories, including unique pieces that help to brighten up my living space. A few of my favourites include the Prop cookbook stand (\$31.50), perfect for trying out recipes over the holidays, the Cru wine rack (\$168), and the Brella 9" vase (\$42) with high-gloss ceramic and a 14-karat gold finish on the interior.

7. [Williams-Sonoma](#)

Not sure about you, but I can't go to a mall without visiting this place. They've got classy music and cool cooking supplies. What more do I need? When I need to bake, this is where I get my supplies. New this year, I want to try the Caramel Candy Apples (\$22), and of course the traditional Peppermint Bark (\$24.50). Over the holidays, I've been enjoying these delicious treats with a hot chocolate using their Snowmen Chef mugs (set of 4: \$29.95)

8. [Spynga](#)

Like there weren't enough crazy ways to get in shape, Spynga, a combination of spinning and yoga, is a new concept developed by two friends, a yogi and a cyclist, who realized both of them were missing out on something. This year, I'll be making time for a package that includes classes such as Detox Flow (a sweat quenching workout to get rid of toxins), Endurance Flow (power climbing that will test my strength and resistance), and Restorative Flow (to improve breathing and meditation). Packages range from \$75 for five classes to \$350 for three months, unlimited.

9. [Lululemon](#)

Of course, if I'm attending Spynga classes, I'm going to need the right work out gear, and this is where Lululemon comes in. The Canadian active wear retailer offers high quality, fashionable and functional pieces for yoga, aerobic activities, outdoor and more. On my list are the Reverse Groove Pant (\$89) and Sport Tank (\$49).

10. [Oasis Spa](#)

One of the best gifts you can give me is a day at the spa -- a day to rejuvenate my body and heal my soul... or just sit and drool while someone rubs my back. The Oasis is Canada's newest and largest day spa. It's a crazy 23,000 square foot urban retreat located in the heart of Toronto's Distillery Historic District and offers an array of services ranging from aesthetics to registered therapies and alternative wellness. I'm still hoping for someone to give me a late Christmas gift: the Oasis Holiday Packages (ranging from \$159 to \$449) that include an Oasis gift card, experience passport (preferred pricing and monthly specials), and a TEYE Body gift box including Foaming Body Wash, Body Crème and Body Aroma Soak, in a choice of three scents: Relax, Release or Revive.

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Photo - clockwise from left: Williams-Sonoma Snowmen Chef Mugs, Lululemon Spark Tank, Hard Candy Delinquent Mini Nail Kit, Foxy Originals Whisper Necklaces, Hobo International Katrina Clutch, Tiffany & Co. Skier Charm, Tiffany & Co. Snowflake Tag Charm