

# CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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SUN-TIMES CHICAGO'S GUIDE TO KITCHEN CULTURE

CHICAGO

## Food



AT THE CHEF'S TABLE | PAGE 3

**Dessert matchmaker**  
The flurry of holiday baking long has captivated Sepia pastry chef Cindy Schuman. Adding magic to her seasonal desserts: unusual flavor pairings.

GIFT GUIDE | PAGE 4

**For the stocking**  
For procrastinators with food lovers on their list: seven last-minute stocking stuffers with style.

The Pour Man | Page 5

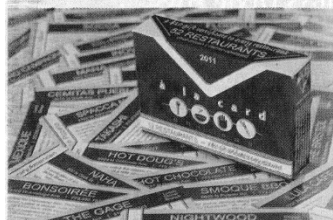
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2010 | EDITOR: JANET RAUSA FULLER | W

## STUFF STOCKING WITH LAST-MINUTE TREATS



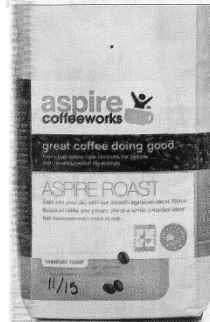
BY JANET RAUSA FULLER  
Fuller@suntimes.com

These seven stocking stuffers, meant for the food lover in your life, are small (hence, "stocking stuffers") but pack a punch. And last-minute shoppers will be glad to know they're easily secured.



### A La Card Chicago 2011 restaurant deck (\$30)

A no-brainer for your trendy friend who eats out more than in. The cards are \$10 gift certificates to 52 restaurants, the red-hot Longman & Eagle, Chinakoya and Raxsin among them. Available at Pastoral stores; Dirk's Fish, 2070 N. Clybourn, the Book Cellar, 4786 N. Lincoln, and other shops; see the list of where to buy at [alacardchicago.com](http://alacardchicago.com).



**Aspire Coffeeworks coffee (1-pound bag; price varies)**  
It's do-good, good coffee. The Chicago nonprofit Aspire has partnered with Metropolis Coffee Company on the roasting end; the more coffee they sell, the more funds go into Aspire's programs for kids and adults with disabilities. Find the organic, fair trade java at Whole Foods, Marion Street Cheese Market in Oak Park and other specialty stores; go to [aspirecoffeeworks.com](http://aspirecoffeeworks.com) for locations.

Know by Susan Russo and Brett Cohen (Quirk Books, \$9.95)

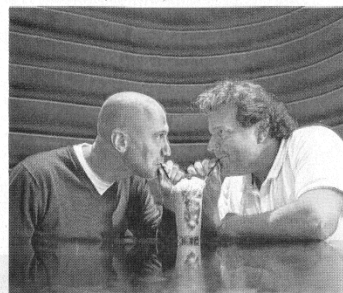
This little (6-by-8.5-inch) black book obviously has a target market, but anyone who feels deficient in the kitchen can learn a thing or two from it. It covers all the basics, from how to scramble eggs and make a good cup of coffee to how to carve a turkey and tell if a steak is cooked. In bookstores.

Maldon sea salt (8 ounces here, price varies)



### Vanilla Bean Saltine Toffee by By M Desserts (\$15 for 1/2 pound)

Not your grandmother's saltine toffee, this confection by former Aigre Doux pastry chef Malika Ameen is topped with vanilla-brown sugar toffee and bittersweet chocolate. Sun-Times readers can order online for pick-up through noon Dec. 23; go to [bymdesserts.com](http://bymdesserts.com) and click on "custom orders."



### DMK Burger Bar calendar (\$15)

Dilbert- or cat-themed calendars are cop-outs. This one, with its goofy photos of DMK Burger Bar staffers (chef Michael Kornick and co-owner David Morton signing a milkshake, Lady and the Tramp-style), is clever. Proceeds benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository. On sale only at the restaurant at 2954 N. Sheffield — a good excuse to stop for a burger.

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 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY & DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
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 U.S.D.A. INSPECTED MUISTEN CHEESE \$1.79 LB.  
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