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www.saveok.co.uk

Perfume remains the number one choice for men to buy their partners at Christmas, and we're OK with that, aren't we girls? But does that mean we have to put up with something he buys on the way home from the pub on Xmas Eve? Drop some hints!

B Never Too Busy To Be Beautiful

<http://www.bnevertoobusytobebeautiful.com>

Affectionately known as B Never, this company sells a host of

perfumes from its glamorously decorated shops in Carnaby

Street, London and Poole in Dorset. Now also

available via mail/internet order, the range includes scents such as Keep It



Fluffy, Cocktail, Love and Assassin. For those wanting to splash out, their handmade and antique French bottles are exquisite (from £35-£595), but for those on a budget, slimline atomisers start at £11. (Tel: 01202 493789).

Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab (BPAL)

<http://www.blackphoenixalchemy.com>

This American company has a growing UK fanclub, who adore their "dark and romantic" perfumes enticingly grouped under Bewitching Brews, Wanderlust, Love Potions and Dark Elements. They're perfect if you're looking for something unusual.

Prices for 5ml and 10ml bottles are reasonable at \$12.50 (£7) and \$19.50 (£10.90) respectively. However, the best bit – and the reason why many

people flock to shop with them – is that they offer very reasonably priced 'imps ears' or sample bottles of perfume. At only \$3.00 each (£1.65) or \$16.00 (£9) for six, it offers a great way to try a host of perfumes without bruising your wallet.

Marks and Spencer

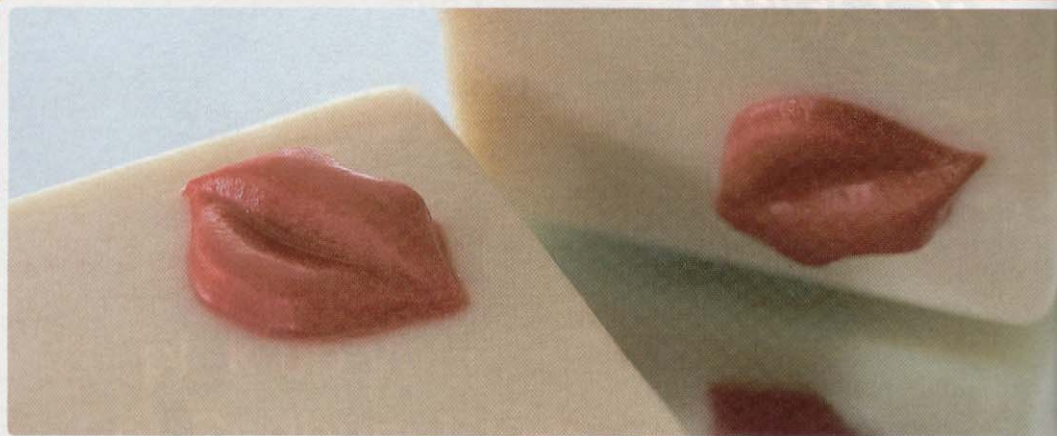
<http://www.marksandspencer.com>

This might not be the first shop that pops into mind when you're shopping for perfume, but the M&S Isis range is worth checking out. The scent is surprisingly good, especially if you like light, easy-to-wear perfumes, and it has a slightly fruity undertone that's reminiscent of Issey Miyake's collection.



The bottles are simply designed, with a slight curve to the glass and lid, and are well priced at £6 for a 30ml eau de toilette and £11 for a larger bottle. As an added bonus, they do an alcohol-free version too, also priced at £6 for 30ml.

Rachel Newcombe



One thing we all find hard at Christmas is finding the kind of gift that hasn't been seen a dozen times before. Well, here are a couple of ideas that might cause a genuine surprise in your house come Christmas morning.

The Gift Gourmet

Delicious Italian foods and drinks are the speciality of this company, who run an online and mail order business. The selection of goods on offer has something for everyone, and all items are sold boxed and carefully packaged.

For example, the Duo Tartaruga Oil Set (£10.99) features two curved



tortoise-shaped glass bottles of balsamic vinegar and extra virgin olive oil, presented in a contemporary stainless steel basket. The Candlestick Oil Holder (£9.99) is a large glass bottle of extra virgin olive oil, heaped with sprigs of rosemary, crushed garlic and herbs. Once it's all gone, the bottle can be converted into a candlestick holder. For those with a sweet tooth, the Sweet Italian 'Tour' Box (£7.99) offers a good value taste of popular Italian cuisine, such as panettone cake, soft amaretti biscuits and baci di dama cookies. (Tel: 0870 206 1426). <http://www.thegiftgourmet.co.uk>

Lush

Natural handmade cosmetics company, Lush, sells a range of innovative solid massage bars. They're ideal for massaging away your aches and pains and

unwinding after a busy day, and the fact that they're solid ensures there's no waste from excess oil.



All the bars are affordably priced from £2.40 to £5.95, but if you're after something extra special, the Amazonian (£5.95), which comes topped with an exotic flower, is sure to fit the bill. Made with lashings of coconut butter, cocoa butter and shea butter moisturisers, plus ylang ylang, tangerine and patchouli oils, it will leave your skin feeling soft and deliciously scented. (Tel: 01202 668545) <http://www.lush.co.uk>

Rachel Newcombe