

# that's a WRAP!

Nothing says holiday cheer like a well-considered gift. From techie to tasty, there's something in this collection for everyone

By Yvonne Yorke



The holiday season always leaves us a little puzzled – and not a little stressed – wondering what to give family and friends, and maybe that special someone on your list. For the busy traveler, it may take a bit of mental gymnastics to match up the perfect gift with the right giftee, like playing Rubik's Cube with Santa.

Or if that special someone on your list just happens to be yourself, you may simply be looking for that little travel must-have to make your next trip easier. We sorted through the labyrinth of gift options out there, and here's a potpourri of picks in gadgets and glitz, from the practical to the fanciful.



## 1 SAMSUNG GALAXY S6 EDGE [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

Without a doubt, this is the Android phone you want to have. With its sexy dual-curved, Quad HD Super AMOLED, 5.1 inch screen, no other smartphone on the market looks like the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge (other than the Galaxy S6 Edge+ with a bigger 5.7 inch screen). The new feature is the "People Edge" with five colored circles which you can assign to five contacts for easy access when calling, texting or e-mailing them, and when the phone is face down, the "Edge Lighting" function will light up

in their assigned colors when they call. The edge screen (which you can conveniently program on either the right or left side of the phone) also allows you to display a night clock, weather updates, news headlines, stocks, sport scores, and missed calls or messages when the screen is off.

Even though competitors are touting the latest megapixel upgrades, Samsung's Galaxy phones have had a 16 MP rear camera and a 5 MP front camera for several years. You can fire up the camera in 0.7 seconds by double-tapping the home button or swiping up on the home

screen. There's also a wide-angle selfie camera with 120-degree wide angle lens – think how many more friends you can fit into your group shots. Another cool feature is the voice control function – just say "Smile" or "Shoot," and the phone takes the photo or records video automatically without the hassle of having to hit the camera button.

The Galaxy S6 Edge has built-in support for wireless charging so I recommend also getting Samsung's portable Fast Charge Qi



Wireless Charging Pad which fully charges your phone in 120 minutes (1.4 times faster than standard charger pads,) and saves the phone's charging ports from wear and tear. Place your S6 Edge on the circular pad and its LED halo along the edge lights up blue for charging and green for fully charged.

## 2 TRAVELSMITH [travelsmith.com](http://travelsmith.com)

With identity and cyber theft on the rise, security is a concern whenever

you're out in public. Protect your personal data with Travelsmith's range of wallets, passport holders and bags equipped with RFID-technology to prevent thieves from stealing information encoded on your credit cards and travel documents.

My pick for the road is the Pacsafe Metrosafe 200 GII Shoulder Bag (\$85) with RFID-blocking inner pockets, and anti-theft features such as a snatch-proof cable strap that can be secured to a stationary object, tamper-proof zippers, and slash-proof front and bottom panels reinforced with stainless steel wire mesh. The water-repellent, 420-denier ballistic nylon bag has a padded electronic pocket that holds a tablet and a front zipper organizer compartment.

## 3 SCOTTEVEST [scottevest.com](http://scottevest.com)

Have you ever wanted a jacket that lets you go bag-free and holds all your valuables making travel and going through airport security lines a breeze? Several companies now offer travel jackets with multiple internal



pockets. However, ScotteVest has outdone the competition with the most extensive range of clothing for men and women including T-shirts, convertible travel pants, cargo shorts, skirts, hoodies, sport coats, puffer jackets and even baseball caps with hidden interior pockets.

The men's Q.U.E.S.T vest (\$145) features an astonishing 46 inside and outside pockets. Carry everything safely and securely with pockets designed for your smartphone, camera, iPad, sunglasses, keys, pens, water bottle, and RFID-blocking pockets for wallet and passport. Yes,

practically everything but the kitchen sink, but due to their patented No Bulge pockets and Weight Management System, there's no bulk. I particularly like the lightweight Lola jacket that keeps you toasty warm in temperatures down to 32 degrees F.



## 4 EPSON [epson.com](http://epson.com)

The ultra-slim Expression Premium XP-530 (\$120) in Epson's Small-in-One Series is a powerhouse printer with auto 2-sided printing, copying, scanning and photo printing capabilities. It produces fade resistant, borderless photos up to 8" x 10", and 4" x 6" photos in as fast as 20 seconds. The XP-530 allows users to print router-free from Android and Apple mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets; and even edits, scans and shares photos directly to Facebook and the cloud.

With Epson Connect, a suite of free mobile printing solutions, you can print documents, photos, e-mails and web pages remotely to any Epson Connect-enabled printer. There's also a built-in memory card slot along with lined paper and calendar templates.

**5 EMMI-DENT**  
**emmi-dent.com**

The Emmi-dent Ultrasonic toothbrush (\$199) features high-tech home dental care that is also portable for travel. Using ultrasound technology with a microchip embedded in its brush head, together with a special nano-bubbles toothpaste, it penetrates below gums and the narrowest spaces between teeth to destroy plaque and bacteria. Especially good for those with sensitive teeth or receding gums, the motionless brush gently cleans and whitens without friction or harsh abrasives.

**6 SKINMEDICA**  
**skinmedica.com**

Get your best holiday glow with this California-based skin care line that offers dermatologist-developed products with state-of-the-art formulations. A stand-out is their Retinol Complex, available in three strengths (0.25, 0.5 and 1.0, starts at \$60) which has been clinically compared to prescription Tretinoin in a 12-week study to achieve similar results in brightening and firming the skin. Most over-the-counter retinol products are either too weak to make much of a difference or too irritating and drying. However, Skinmedica's proprietary PhotoShield Complex encapsulates the retinol (vitamin A) for stabilized, targeted delivery to improve the appearance of aging with minimal irritation.

Another note-worthy product is the Lytera Skin Brightening Complex (\$125), a non-prescription treatment tested against 4 percent

hydroquinone in preventing hyperpigmentation and in reducing the appearance of age spots caused by sun damage. This luxurious feeling lotion contains a cocktail of skin-beneficial ingredients including licorice root extract, retinol, peptides, stabilized vitamin C, and other antioxidants.

**7 BECCA**  
**beccacosmetics.com**

If you've ever had your powder eyeshadows or blushes break and spill all over your cosmetic bag, or your makeup fade before the end of the day of meetings, then take along Becca's Tints on your next trip. The Eye Tint (\$24) is a semi-sheer, water-resistant cream in a tube that tints lids with a soft wash of color in brown and taupe shades. The Beach Tint for cheeks and lips (\$25) is easy to blend and imparts a natural, translucent color. Long-wearing and crease-free, the Becca tints hold up to a day at the office or at the beach. Simply swipe on before your plane lands for a made-up face that looks pulled together without being overly done.

**8 YOUNG LIVING**  
**ESSENTIAL OILS**  
**youngliving.com**

Distilled from plants, essential oils have long been used in perfumes, cosmetics, aromatherapy and alternative medicine for their purported restorative properties such as relaxation or improved mental alertness. However, the quality and purity of available oils in the market varies greatly therefore reducing their effectiveness. Young Living cultivates its



the finest ingredients, no preservatives, and only the best quality cocoa, spices, nuts and purees. The Black Collection (\$15 for 5 piece box) features 68 percent to 88 percent dark, single-origin chocolates from the top five cocoa regions of the world. So exquisitely delicious it has been named one of the nation's top 10 truffles. Full disclosure: I ate the entire box in one sitting. Don't be surprised if you do the same.

**10 BIAGGI**  
**biaggi.com**

This award-winning, foldable luggage line which condenses to 50 percent of its original size is a godsend for tiny boutique hotel rooms, cruise cabins or apartments where space is a premium. Many collapsible suitcases in the market don't hold their shape or only feature two wheels making packing and maneuverability difficult.

Biaggi's Contempo Collection with four, smooth-gliding spinner wheels ranges from an 18-inch cabin bag (\$179.99) to a 28-inch upright spinner (\$249.99). All have hard-sided panels that flip up and click in place when needed for shape and protection, and fold down with a hinge-lock folding system so the suitcase can be stowed away flat in its own storage bag. The Contempo line comes in an array of fashionable colors and is constructed of lightweight, scratch-resistant nylon with a padded interior lining, cushioned side and top carry handles, reinforced corner guards, an interior zippered mesh panel and pockets, two front zippered pockets for easy access to

own lavender, clary sage, peppermint and other herbs in Utah and Idaho, and has the most technologically advanced distillery for the production of pure essential oils in North America. The Essence of the Season collection (\$98.36) comes in a festive gift box and features 5-ml bottles of frankincense, myrrh and Christmas Spirit essential oil blend.

Great for travel is Young Living's portable USB aroma diffuser (\$29.93) that can be used with your laptop, in the car or wherever you go. Put a few drops of your favorite essential oil in the diffuser, and the atomizing technology transforms the oil into a vapor of micro-particles dispersed into the air at 10, 30 or 60 second intervals.

**9 NORMAN LOVE**  
**CONFECTIONS**  
**normanlove**  
**confections.com**

Here's a definite step up from the typical box of chocolates you usually receive during the holidays. From world-renowned pastry chef and award-winning chocolatier, Norman Love Confections are handmade daily with



essentials, and a hidden ID tag. The telescoping, aircraft-grade aluminum handle, and the four 360-degree spinner wheels make moving through airports and crowded spaces a breeze.

**11 LUGGAGE**  
**FORWARD**  
**luggageforward.com**

If you're packing up the whole family for a trip 'to Grandmother's house we go,' give yourself a little present

— and a little stress relief — with a door-to-door luggage delivery service such as Luggage Forward. You can save time by skipping the airport check-in line as well as the wait at the baggage carousel. Book your luggage shipment over the phone, or online using your computer or smartphone, and Luggage Forward will pick up and deliver your suitcases, skis, or golf clubs from your office, residence, hotel, golf course, or cruise ship within the US and internationally.

Better yet, they are up to 50 percent cheaper compared to other types of shippers, and you can pack as much as you want without having to worry about airline excess baggage fees. Lost luggage is also a thing of the past as every bag is guaranteed to arrive on time or you'll get a refund plus \$500. There are up to five shipping speeds (depending on destination), and upon delivery, you'll get a notification via e-mail, text or phone. **BT**

