

Shopping the Best of PDX – Local Experts Offer Gifting Tips

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We invited some local experts to share how they approach gift giving, their favorite spots at Portland International Airport and more in this holiday round-up. Read on to learn how these fashionistas and foodies shop and eat local.

Style blogger **Julianne Robinson** (Pictured above.)

Instagram: [@stylebyjulianne](https://www.instagram.com/stylebyjulianne)

“There is no better local gift than a Pendleton blanket! Not only is Pendleton iconic and such a recognizable Portland brand, they make the most durable and functional pieces, not to mention they’re quite eye catching. It’s such an easy go-to for the holiday season because who doesn’t love a beautiful Pendleton piece? Local or not.”

Q: Do you have a favorite place to shop or dine at PDX?

A: I love Elephants Delicatessen as I have frequented their various locations throughout my entire life. Their cafes are inviting, comfortable, and they have the cutest French bistro chairs that make for the best photographs (#bloggerlife). Oh, and their food is to die for! I especially love their breakfast options on a chilly Portland morning.

Q: What type of gifts do you like to receive?

A: I love to receive anything that has meaning behind it, that I can also get some good use out of: a fun mug from your travels, or a quality piece of clothing.

Blogger **Candace Molatore**



Instagram: [@hey.candace](https://www.instagram.com/hey.candace)

“So many of my favorite local businesses have gift cards which is, in my opinion, a very underrated gift! To me a gift card says, ‘I know you’ll like what this shop has to offer so go there, get something you love and be amazed.’”

Q: Do you have a favorite shop or place to dine at PDX?

I always make a stop at Kenny and Zuke’s Deli when I’m on my way out of PDX. Can’t go wrong with their amazing Rueben!

Q: Are you a last-minute holiday shopper?

I am the total opposite of a last-minute shopper. I like to have my gifts purchased by Black Friday.

Mixologist and blogger **Kimberly Lashbrook**



Instagram: [@chix.ology](https://www.instagram.com/chix.ology).

“My favorite place to shop at the airport is House Spirits Distillery. I love that people can sample local spirits upon arrival.”

Q: What type of gifts do you like to receive?

Well, I could state the obvious: cocktail-related ideas. But there’s also nothing better than a gift card to one of our amazing restaurants. I’m often more excited about experiences than wrapped gifts.

Q: What’s your favorite holiday cocktail?

I make new ones every year. Last year I did a Thanksgiving drink with gin, sage, prosecco, and cranberry ice spheres.

Food and lifestyle blogger **Jenny Ross**



Instagram: [@eatrichordietryin](#)

“Aside from food and beverage gifts, I love giving presents that can be used right away. I love seasonal appropriate gifts such as Pendleton throw blankets or a Portland Gear beanie or long sleeve shirt. My friends and family are also big foodies, so I often give jars of goodies or bottles of local wine.”

Q: Do you have a favorite shop or place to dine at PDX?

I am absolutely obsessed with Tender Loving Empire. This is a shop I would go to outside the airport so it's very convenient for me. They sell health/beauty products, local goodies, and serve as more of a one-stop shop. As far as dining goes, it's so hard to choose but Country Cat has been a go-to for me more recently. How can you pass up some biscuits and gravy or fried chicken? Unfortunately, I am terrible at time management, so I usually arrive super early or cut it close when I travel. For a quick stop, which is usually where I find myself, the Capers market market is great to pick up a healthy snack.

Q: What food-related gifts do you like to give or get?

Almost all my gifts end up being food and beverage related – surprise, surprise. I love giving out jars of ground-up nut butters or local bee honey as stocking stuffers or just-because gifts. For something larger, depending on the person, a nice bottle of whiskey like Westward, or a bottle of Oregon wine is always a win. For non-drinkers, I get creative and will do baskets of gift cards to certain restaurants, Alma Chocolate, Olympia Provisions' meats for charcuterie or treats that can make up one grand gift.

Fashion blogger [Linnea Havener](#)



Instagram: [@velvetandsequins](https://www.instagram.com/velvetandsequins)

“My favorite local gifts to give are wines, chocolates and coffees from companies in the area. They make great stocking stuffers and add-on gifts!”

Q: Do you have a favorite shop or place to dine at PDX?

Whenever I visit the airport, I love grabbing a coffee from [Peet's](#) and then stopping by [Powell's](#). I believe you always need at least one book for your trip, so it is the perfect place to go pick one up!



Fashion and lifestyle blogger [Sam Landreath](#)

With **Nick Livingston**; Instagram: [@nixn.co](https://www.instagram.com/nixn.co)

Instagram: [@samlandreth](https://www.instagram.com/samlandreth)

“I usually head to [Powell’s](#) or [Tender Loving Empire](#) and pick out candles, pins and prints from local shops. These are generally gifts everyone loves and I get to support a small business in the process.”

Q: What type of gifts do you like to receive?

Candles, books, records and home decoration items.

Q: Are you a last-minute holiday shopper?

I actually start shopping months in advance and get everything picked out for everyone on a spreadsheet. Ha, ha! Picking out gifts unique to friends/family is one of my most favorite things!