

COOL GIFT IDEAS

Stackable wines

Stackable wine is a bottle of wine separated into four ready-to-serve stemless wine glasses. A great gift idea and perfect for tailgating. The Vine on Main in Sykesville features cabs, chards, and pinot noir. TheVineSykesville.com.

Give the gift of food

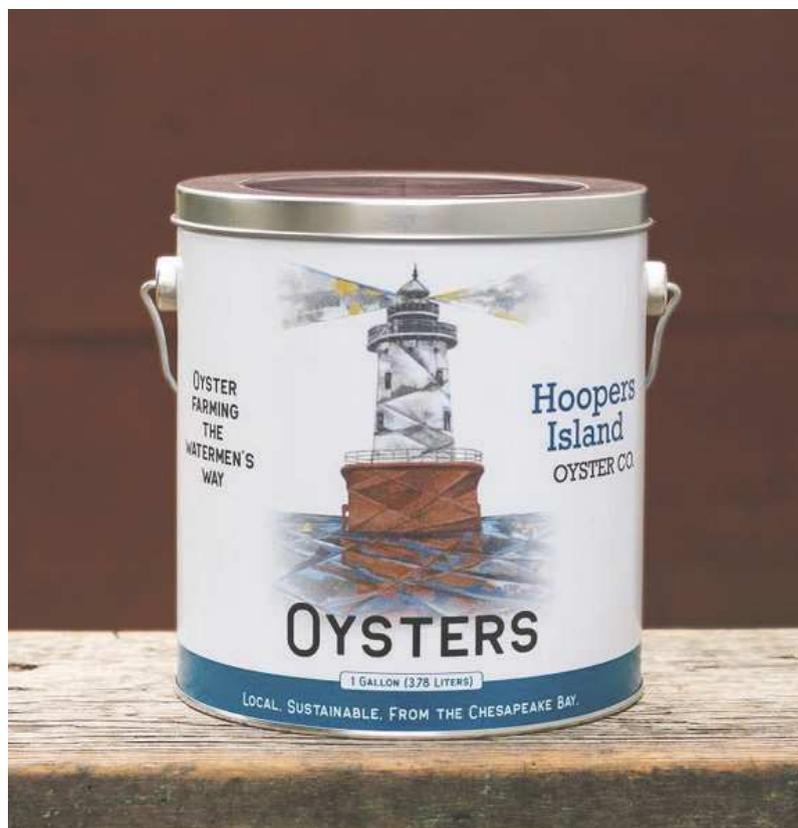
Who doesn't love going out to brunch or dinner? Give the gift of food with a gift certificate to a great restaurant. FYI, many restaurants offer a free \$25 certificate with the purchase of a \$100 certificate. Not sure which restaurant to choose? The Restaurant Association of Maryland offers Dine Out Maryland! gift certs that are redeemable at over 350 restaurants across the state.

They come with a gift envelope and a dining guide booklet that lists participating restaurants — sweet! MarylandRestaurants.com.



Baltimore in a Box

For over 25 years, I've been creating Baltimore in a Box gift packages for my out-of-town family, including all their fave, tasty, unique-to-B-more treats. Now, there's a company that does it for you. Baltimore in a Box allows you to select various Baltimore-centric items, and they package and ship your box for free — anywhere in the U.S. Choose Old Bay seasoning, Berger cookies, Goetze's caramel creams, Fisher's popcorn, and more. BaltimoreinaBox.com.



A limited edition, very cool "Heritage Tin" from Hoopers Island Oyster Co. is available for the holidays at Parts & Labor Butchery in Remington. Modeled after the one-gallon cans used to pack oysters in the 19th and 20th centuries (and way popular with antique collectors), the tin can be purchased along with pints of shucked oysters from the Eastern Shore's leading oyster aquaculture producer. LOVE this! PartsandLaborButchery.com. HoopersIsland.com.

WHINING 'N DINING *cont. from pg 22*

tacos on Mondays and cassoulet on Wednesdays. BandORestaurant.com.

The Elephant on North Charles Street has a new executive chef, Orlando Amaro.

The Venezuelan native recently worked as exec chef at Station 4 Restaurant in D.C., and the new menu echoes his global experience. TheElephantBaltimore.com.

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

Arômes, the French restaurant in Hampden, has closed. Word "on-the-street" is that there will be another concept in downtown Baltimore called **Chez Hugo**.

Parts & Labor in Remington's fine dining atmosphere has changed to a more casual vibe featuring sandwiches and snacks. PartsandLaborButchery.com.

Papa Gil's, the Italian-American restaurant in Crondall Corner

Shopping Center on Owings Mills Boulevard, has closed.

COOL NEWS

OK...not exactly local news but... very cool. Now, you really CAN have breakfast at Tiffany's. **The Blue Box Café** opened on the fourth floor of the Tiffany & Co. flagship store overlooking Fifth Avenue in NYC. Dishes include avocado toast, truffled eggs, and smoked salmon bagels. The café is decorated in Tiffany's signature blue, and you can order a take-home cake in the shape of the blue Tiffany's box. #decadent

FOODIE FUN 411

Points South Latin Kitchen

Experience traditional South American dishes at this dedicated GF eatery, while enjoying drag brunch or drag bingo! PointsSouthBaltimore.com. (See May 2017 FSM cover story.)

Sotto Sopra

This cozy, elegant Charles Street eatery features farm-to-table contemporary Italian cuisine and showcases special Broadway and opera nights. SottoSopraInc.com.

Eat good, do good

Owners Michael and Jennifer Myers opened Sam's Canterbury Cafe as a place to meaningfully employ their son, Sam, who's on the autism spectrum. It's since grown into a treasured neighborhood gathering spot that serves fresh, quality food in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Open for breakfast and lunch, Sam's offers a great "Grab 'n' Go" menu, online ordering, fresh pastry, and Zeke's coffee. Plus, you can walk your four-pawed friends to Tripp's Terrace (soon to be heated), named after the Myers' dog. Most importantly, Sam's has created a culture of mutual respect and understanding, offering employment

to adults on the autism spectrum who can work and thrive with the encouragement of a very dedicated team. SamsCanterburyCafe.com. (See March 2017 FSM cover story.)

I'M THANKFUL FOR...

Sydney Norman Rom, my four-pawed son. My family: Mom Rom (and Syd's fave brother Pedro), Robin, Jeff, Lindsey (and soon to be nephew-in-law Daniel Berkowitz), Ally (all the way in Hong Kong), Ricky, Thrish, Ryan (and soon to be niece-in-law Kate McNichol and their fur baby Bob Barker), and Reggie. Also thankful for so many great friends and extended family, Dr. Richard Layton (FYI, if you have food allergies, THIS is the man to see), Jackson Browne, Andy, Wacha, and all the housewives, great clients, and my FSM family. And thinking about Michael Birchenall, who always got a big kick from my end-of-the-year column.