

FOOD & WINE

DECEMBER 2008

20 super, easy holiday parties

cocktails, soups, roasts,
cookies & wines

a star chef's
italian christmas



*Citrus-marinated
pork rib roast*
RECIPE P. 180

top affordable cabernets



WWW.FOODANDWINE.COM \$4.50

\$30
and under



1-3

TOP COOKIE
There's a choice
for every taste—
chewy, tender
and crumbly.



4

5



6



7

1-3 INCREDIBLE COOKIES Kitchen Sink cookies from Lisa's Cookie Shop are chewy and chunky. \$7.25 for 7; liscookieshop.com. Chocolate Gourmet's "Damn Good Cookies" line lives up to its name with tender rugalach. \$27 for 12; chocolategourmet.com. England's Artisan Biscuits' fruit and almond fingers are enticingly crumbly. \$7 a box; chelseamarketbaskets.com.

5 SPICY SPIRIT St. Elizabeth Allspice Dram, an update of the traditional rum-based Jamaican liqueur, is produced (unexpectedly) in Austria. It's nicely spicy, which makes it ideal for spiking a holiday punch. \$25 for 375 ml; drinkupny.com.

6 OLD WORLD—NEW WORLD HAM S. Wallace Edwards & Sons of Surry, Virginia, introduces an Americanized version of Spain's famed serrano ham punningly dubbed "Surryano" ham. The company cures Berkshire pork in the Spanish style—i.e., with longer aging and much less salt than Virginia ham. Then, for a New World touch, they smoke it over hickory. \$20 for 12 oz; virginiatraditions.com.

7 VANILLA GETS VERSATILE More flavorful than vanilla extract and less expensive than whole beans, Madécasse's pure vanilla powder can pinch-hit for both. \$13 for a 1.1-oz jar; madecasse.com.

4 SOUPED-UP LADLE Spoon Sisters' ingenious two-in-one straining ladle with perforations on one side is great for serving soups and making stocks. \$22; spoonsisters.com.

8 DINNER-PARTY CARDS TableTopics pose questions meant to spark dinner-party conversation. A card in the "Wine To Go" set, for instance, asks, "What's the most you would pay for a highly rated, rare bottle of wine that you covet?" \$9 for 40 cards; tabletopics.com.