RINGING in the WEEKEND

Pop the Champagne: It’s our dressed-up, dusk- ’til-dawn HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE for the ultimate celebration with friends. So drop your bag and freshen up, and we’ll see you downstairs. Cocktails are at six.

For buying information, see page 30.
With a swirl of her bubbly, she shows guests to their rooms, then slips off for final dressing table touches. Among them are minty amethyst earrings by Mateo, a favorite Breguet wristwatch with a gleaming mother-of-pearl dial (it never misses a party), and a dab of Byredo’s cedarwood and violet scent.
Gamers’ Cocktail Hour

Herend’s cheeky porcelain dominoes tease a crowd for whom games are both gift and ceremony. A lapis and brass playing card case for the ace among them, Dior’s embroidered backgammon set for the dueling classicists, and the Prohibition-chic shaker and hand-cut Japanese martini glasses? Clutched tightly by all, particularly spectators whispering around the loungy perimeter. May the best guest win.

6:42 p.m.
In flickering candlelight, the laughter-streaked thread of conversation snakes around the table well into the evening. Like prodding companions, sinuous, '70s-cool patterns mirror the fluidity of conversation, from potter Sylvie Saint-André Perrin’s marbled urn (genius as a wine cooler) to Pinto’s rattan-inspired plates and Muranese tumblers that read like aqueous modern art, coaxing guests to linger a bit longer.

A Glowing Nightcap Nibble

The queen of late night rolls out bites and cordials in warm metallics and etched glass that catch light from a roaring hearth. Their star: a silver swing-arm aperitif service that slides down tables (perfect for roving guests). Dishes in freeform polished brass easily pass from lap to floor, while a regal stone and wood inlay tray mimics swirling malachite, as hypnotic as the low-lit atmosphere.

Inviting guests to ease into the day, the host assembles a warmly personal morning greeting: croissants and berries on earthen terre mêlée plates she picked up in France, with fresh juice in a melon-hued, mouth-blown glass jug and tumbler by favorite artist Helle Mardahl. A soft knock at the door, a fragrant offering atop a woven tray, and just like that, the swap of late-night stories begins. With it, a new day’s roster of merriment.